Bengaluru Tuesday, June 23, 2026 Pages 20 Vol 79 No 173 ₹7

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INFERNO: Most victims students; building owners held

15 killed in fire at Lucknow building

SANJAY PANDEY
LUCKNOW, DHNS

At least 15 people, mostly students, were killed and seven others injured after a massive fire engulfed a building at Aliganj locality in Lucknow on Monday.

The blaze, which is believed to have been caused by a short circuit, likely trapped several people inside.

Many jumped from the building in a bid to save themselves and were injured in the process, sources said.

While UP Deputy Chief Minister Brijesh Pathak confirmed 14 deaths, an official at the state-run King George's Medical University (KGMU) in Lucknow later put the number of deceased at 15. The number of deaths was likely to increase.

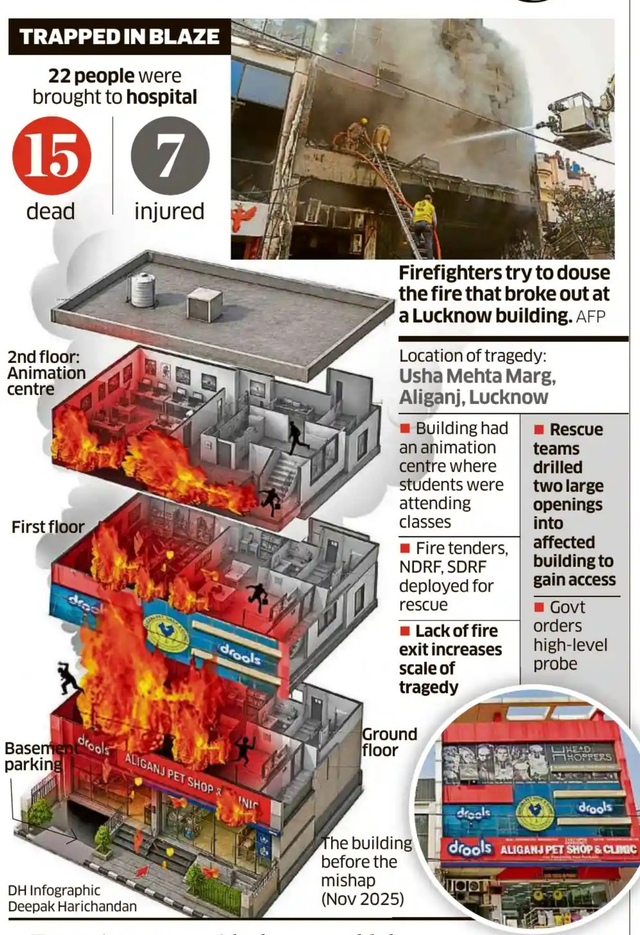
"Fourteen people lost their lives in the fire... some are injured and have been admitted in the Trauma Centre at KGMU hospital... a high-level probe has been ordered into the incident," Pathak told reporters.

Fire brigade personnel and a team of the National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) were checking every room in the building.

Initial reports said there was a coaching centre on the second floor but officials later clarified there was a pet shop on the ground floor and a 3D animation centre on the second floor.

Among those present in the building during the fire included students who were learning animation.

Many of the victims were trapped on the second floor.



Firefighters try to douse the fire that broke out at a Lucknow building. AFP

Location of tragedy: **Usha Mehta Marg, Aliganj, Lucknow**

- Building had an animation centre where students were attending classes
- Fire tenders, NDRF, SDRF deployed for rescue
- **Lack of fire exit increases scale of tragedy**
- **Rescue teams drilled two large openings into affected building to gain access**
- Govt orders high-level probe

The building before the mishap (Nov 2025)

Eye witnesses said they saw smoke billowing from the building around noon after which they immediately informed the fire brigade.

The fire spread quickly, possibly due to the wooden furniture inside. Locals complained that the fire brigade arrived 40 minutes after being informed and by the time it arrived, the fire had engulfed the entire building.

Several fire tenders rushed to the scene and the fire which could be controlled only after an hour-long effort.

The sources said a few cats and dogs in the pet store were also killed in the fire.

Dr Anil Agrawal, Medical Superintendent, Trauma Centre, KGMU, said "21 to 22 people were brought in" after the incident.

▸ **Fire, Page 6**

'Let me reach my son': Parents plead, students leap to escape UP fire, Page 7

British PM Starmer resigns, Burnham likely successor

LONDON, AFP

British Prime Minister Keir Starmer on Monday announced he was quitting following months of pressure, with veteran Labour politician Andy Burnham the frontrunner to become the country's seventh prime minister in a decade.

Burnham could be installed in 10 Downing Street in just over three weeks after would-be rival Wes Streeting said he was backing the ex-Manchester mayor for the premiership.

Starmer's voice cracked during an emotional speech outside his official residence, as he conceded he had lost the support of his Labour party MPs after just two years in office. He said he had informed head of state King Charles III of his decision to resign so that a new Labour leader, and therefore prime minister, could be elected.

"I will remain in post as prime minister until the contest is complete, and I will do everything I can to ensure an orderly handover of power," Starmer said.

Starmer said he had asked Labour's National Executive Committee to set out a timetable for his replacement, with nominations due to open on July 9 before closing on July 16.

> Every decision I have taken has been about putting the country I love first. That is why I will resign as leader of the Labour Party
>
> **KEIR STARMER**

Andy Burnham

If Burnham is unchallenged, then he is likely to become prime minister on either July 17 or 18, UK media said, just days before a crunch summit UK-European Union summit in Brussels on July 22.

Starmer — well-respected abroad for his involvement in supporting Ukraine, NATO, opposing the United States on Iran and pushing closer ties with Brussels — returned Labour to power after 14 years with a landslide victory over the Conservatives in 2024.

▸ **Starmer, Page 6**

Related reports, Page 11

Crop loss jitters as sowing at just 30% of target in state

Fate of kharif season rests on revival of monsoon

MANJUNATH HEGDE BOMNALLI
HUBBALLI, DHNS

With rainfall remaining scanty during the initial phase of the monsoon, fears of severe crop losses are mounting in Karnataka, where sowing has covered only 30% of the seasonal target so far. The fear is intense in regions that have recorded better sowing progress, particularly rain-fed areas in northwestern Karnataka, as crops are drying up at the tender stage due to inadequate rainfall and sowing window for short-term crops is nearing its end.

SOWING IN RAIN-FED AREAS

(as of June 20) (in lakhs of hectares)

Crops	2025	2026	Target (2026 kharif)
Paddy	0.62	0.67	2.38
Jowar	0.22	0.16	0.51
Ragi	0.02	0.02	7.88
Maize	7.67	4.93	13.09
Tur	4.60	2.22	14.63
Black gram	0.64	0.44	0.74
Green gram	3.43	3.01	4.34
Avare	0.53	0.02	0.23
Others	0.58	0.71	2.49
Total	18.31	12.18	46.29

As the sowing window typically closes between mid- and end-July, depending on the region, the fate of the kharif season now hinges on the timely revival of the monsoon.

With rainfall 43% below normal, sowing across the state has covered just 30% of the estimated 84.10 lakh hectares earmarked for the kharif season, compared to 42% during the corresponding period last year.

According to the Agriculture Department, only Dharwad, Gadag, Haveri, Belagavi and Bagalkot districts have achieved over 60% of their sowing targets.

Short-duration kharif crops sown in rain-fed areas are on the verge of failure. Farmers who began sowing after moderate rainfall in late May and early June now face losses if the dry spell persists for another week.

▸ **Agriculture, Page 6**

30 members of NEET 'solver gang' held in Bihar

PATNA: A day after the NEET-UG re-examination, the Bihar Police on Monday claimed to have arrested 30 people, who were part of a "solver gang" appearing in place of candidates.

Most of the arrests took place at three examination centres in Lakhisarai district. The arrested people included nine impersonators, one candidate, two helpers and 18 biometric employees. Before the exam commenced, the police got information that there were a few 'solvers', mostly MBBS students, impersonating candidates, in return for Rs 20 lakh each.

Details on Page 6B

STP accident: No safety harness used, sewage not diverted

SNEHA RAMESH
BENGALURU, DHNS

Workers at the Varthur sewage treatment plant had not used a safety harness while taking up repair work and had even failed to divert the raw sewage. This was the cause for the accident, the Bangalore Water Supply and Sewerage Board (BWSSB) officials have determined.

According to sources, the internal committee has submitted a report to the BWSSB chairman stating that the contractor's negligence and failure to follow the SOP in the contract were the root cause for the accident.

"The workers who entered the inlet tank had not fastened their safety harness belts. If they had done that, they could have been pulled out. It's sheer negligence that has resulted in the accident," sources said.

Two workers had fallen into the STP. While one body was recovered, the search is on for the other worker.

▸ **STP, Page 6**

'Death by negligence' invoked, Page 3

Talks with Iran set 'good foundation' to end war: Vance

OBBUERGEN (SWITZERLAND), AP: Vice President JD Vance on Monday said his lengthy talks with senior Iranian officials in Switzerland created a "good foundation for a successful final deal" as they seek a permanent end to the war.

"The final deal is the house," Vance told reporters after initial talks with Iran's parliamentary speaker, Mohammad Bagher Qalibaf. "We set the foundation. We haven't built the house, but we've laid a successful foundation to get to a good place for the American people."

Vance and US officials claimed progress on multiple fronts, including the establishment of "mechanisms" to ensure the Strait of Hormuz stays open.

Details on Page 11

12 Indians among 13 killed in explosion at Qatar factory

DUBAI, PTI: Twelve Indians were among 13 people killed in an explosion at a factory in the Ras Laffan Industrial City in Qatar, officials said on Monday.

"Qatari authorities have confirmed that 12 Indian nationals have unfortunately passed away in the Ras Laffan incident yesterday night," the Indian Embassy in Doha said in a post on X.

Citing Qatari authorities, it said that all injured are in stable condition and are receiving appropriate medical treatment.

"Our Embassy is working in close contact with the Qatari authorities to extend all possible help to the Indian nationals and their families affected by this incident, including ensuring that mortal remains of the deceased are sent to India at the earliest," it added.

Earlier, during a press briefing on Monday, the Gulf country's energy minister Saad bin Shreida Al-Kaabi confirmed that 13 people of Indian and Pakistani origins have died in the incident.

A screen grab of the blast at a factory in Qatar. AFP

The Embassy of India in Doha said it is in constant touch with Qatari authorities and will render all help to the families of those who have lost their lives or have been injured.

The Interior Ministry said the incident was caused by a "technical malfunction", resulting in the deaths of 13 people and injuries to 66 others of various nationalities.

▸ **Qatar, Page 6**

WORK SITE

Govt's AI-powered portal to host pvt sector jobs

DH SPECIAL

BHARATH JOSHI
BENGALURU, DHNS

The D K Shivakumar administration is building what it says will be "Karnataka's largest integrated skill and employment" portal to help candidates access the labour market, especially private sector jobs.

The Yuva Udyoga Setu, the employment exchange for private sector jobs Chief Minister Shivakumar announced the day he took charge, will "significantly enhance employment accessibility, reduce recruitment timelines and improve placement outcomes" across the state, according to a concept note *DH* has accessed.

PORTAL FEATURES

- Employer registration
- Job vacancy creation
- Candidate matching
- Interview scheduling
- Virtual interviews
- Placement tracking

The note -- drafted by the department of skill development, entrepreneurship and livelihood -- is being vetted by the chief minister's office (CMO).

"The portal will generate real-time analytics on job demand, sector-wise workforce requirements, placement trends, employer participation and district-wise employment performance, thereby supporting evidence-based policy formulation and workforce planning," the note states.

The Yuva Udyoga Setu will have three interconnected verticals: job seeker, job provider and educational institutions/ universities. The portal promises a "complete recruitment cycle", which will include employer registration, job vacancy creation, candidate matching, application management, shortlisting and screening, online assessments, interview scheduling, virtual interviews, offer letter generation, placement tracking and post-placement monitoring.

▸ **Jobs, Page 6**

SHETH BROTHERS
"THANKS TO KAYAM, I CAN NOW PLAY WITH MY GRANDKIDS"
I am 76 years old, and I enjoy cooking for my grandchildren. However, this constipation has made things so difficult. Every time I'd cook or bend down to pick something up, I would feel bloated and strained. The infrequent bowel movements were affecting my daily life. It was hard to even enjoy my food.
That's when my son brought me an ayurvedic remedy, Kayam Tablet. Soon, I started feeling better. Those symptoms began to subside. Now I can cook, eat, and play with my grandkids without any discomfort.
AVAILABLE AT MEDICAL SHOPS AND AYURVEDIC STORES
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AYURVEDIC KAYAM TABLET SHETH BROS.

CIVIC GAP

Kanakapura Road is dotted with numerous lakes, but residents say the area still lacks sufficient parks and playgrounds to keep pace with rapid urban growth

Blessed with lakes, but plagued by neglect and poor upkeep amid growing urban pressure

SNEHA RAMESH
BENGALURU, DHNS

Kanakapura Road has witnessed a steep rise in population in the last few years as large apartment complexes and gated communities have sprung up.

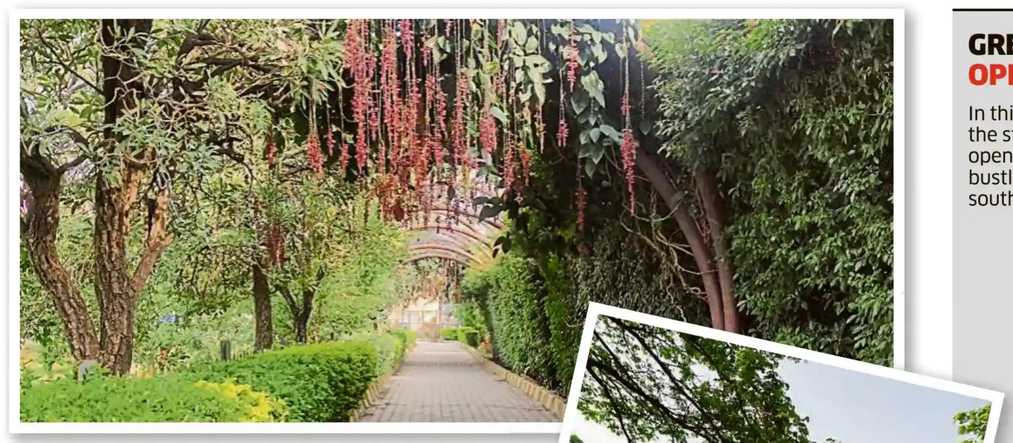
However, citizens and activists say this increase in population still needs to be complemented with parks, playgrounds and open public spaces to ensure well-balanced growth.

The area is blessed with many lakes, with nearly one waterbody every 2-3 km. There are about 15 lakes just on the stretch between the JP Nagar and Silk Institute metro stations. However, residents and activists feel the maintenance of these waterbodies has been rather poor.

LOOKING SOUTH — KANAKAPURA ROAD

"The major problem in almost every lake is sewage. At lakes like Doddakallasandra, authorities have constructed diversion channels, but these channels are hardly cleaned, so they get clogged, pushing sewage back in," said Raghavendra Pachhapur, an activist who has also lived around the lake.

Natesh Babu, another resident, pointed out that while city authorities have taken up many works at these lakes, they have failed to undertake follow-ups or make them impactful.



(Top) A park within the Puttenahalli Lake premises. (R) A view of Doddakallasandra Lake. PHOTO: SHRIDHAR COMARAVALLI

"For instance, at Anjanapura Lake, a fountain was installed nearly a year ago. But even to this day, there is no power supply to the fountain. Officials have not bothered to check that," Babu said.

While the area has enough lakes, parks are not that common. Though there are a few well-maintained parks, they are inadequate for the growing population. To add to this, there are hardly any playgrounds around the stretch.

"There are good parks no doubt, but they are not enough. However, there are hardly any playgrounds," said Abdul Aleem from the Changemakers of Kanakapura Road civic group.

Given that land prices are skyrocketing, encroachments have become common and there is hardly any push to develop more parks and playgrounds, citizens said.

"New apartment complexes and communities are mushrooming every day around this area. However, there is a need for better planning by the authorities. Be it parks or playgrounds, they need to be planned well," said Srinivas M, a resident of JP Nagar.

Many areas around Kanakapura Road do not have any playgrounds. Lack of parks and playgrounds has only left the area with no affordable space for public meetings or physical activities.

Garbage black spots

Residents also pointed out that garbage collection was a problem at many places, creating blackspots, especially near lakes and parks.

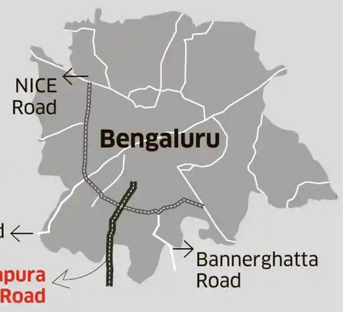
That apart, since a few areas around the stretch fall under gram panchayats, infrastructure development has not kept pace with growth in the area.

"The stretch between NICE Road and Kaggalipura falls under the Kaggalipura gram panchayat. Garbage collection and other facilities there are still a problem," Aleem noted.

Residents urged the authorities to plan facilities by assessing the growth in the area rather than catching up with the growth.

GREEN AND OPEN SPACES

In this story, DH tracks the status of green and open spaces along the bustling corridor in southern Bengaluru.



Kanakapura Road has many lakes but faces the familiar tale of poor upkeep. Poor garbage collection has created blackspots near some lakes and parks.

- Kanakapura Road is blessed with lakes: There are at least 15 lakes within a 2-3 km radius. But lake maintenance remains a concern.
- Very few parks, mostly only in BDA layouts. Only a handful of playgrounds. No playgrounds in many areas.

"Parks and playgrounds have to be planned when layouts are conceptualised. If there are illegal layouts or layouts were approved by gram panchayats, there may not be enough open spaces to develop parks or grounds. Lack of space is a problem. If there are government properties, we are definitely open to developing them into parks. We urge citizens to suggest or get in touch with us if there are such spaces availabl

– **KN Ramesh,** Commissioner, Bengaluru South City Corporation

LAKES, LAKES ALL AROUND

Lakes within 2-3 km radius of Kanakapura Road: JP Nagar Metro to Silk Institute Metro

- Sarakki Lake (JP Nagar 6th/7th Phase)
- Puttenahalli Lake
- Chunchaghatta Lake
- Anjanapura Lake
- Yelachenahalli Lake (Annayappana Kere)
- Doddakallasandra Lake
- Konanakunte Lake
- Dore Kere
- ISRO Layout Lake (Devara Kere)
- Uttarahalli Lake
- Goudanakere
- Subramanyapura Lake
- Gubbalala Lake
- Thalaghattapura Lake
- Jogikere

Power shutdown in South B'luru today

BENGALURU, DHNS

Power supply will be disrupted in several areas under Bescom's Jayanagar subdivision from 10 am to 4 pm on Tuesday due to maintenance work being carried out by KPTCL at the 66/11 kV RBI and Adugodi GIS substations.

Areas likely to be affected include RBI Layout, Kothanur, JP Nagar 5th Phase, Shreyas Colony, Gaurav Nagar, Nataraja Layout, Nrupathunga Nagar, Jamboo Savari Dinne, Chunchaghatta, Brigade Millennium Apartments, Brigade Gardenia Apartments, and surrounding localities.

The shutdown will also affect Adugodi, Salarpuria Tower, Big Bazaar, Accenture, KMF Godown, Nanjappa Layout, New MICO Road, Chikkalakshmi Layout, Mahalingeshwara Layout, Bangalore Dairy, Forum Mall, Rangadasappa Layout, Lakkasandra, Wilson Garden, Chinnayana Palya, Chandrappa Nagar, the Nimhans Administrative Block, Bande Slum, Sunnada Kallu, Brundavana Slum, Lalji Nagar, Shamanna Garden, NDRI Police Quarters, and nearby areas.

Bescom has advised consumers to call 112 to register complaints or seek assistance during the outage.

North Corp fixes 50 waterlogging spots flagged by traffic police

BENGALURU, DHNS: The Bengaluru North City Corporation (BNCC) has taken preventive measures at 50 of the 81 spots prone to waterlogging, identified by the traffic police.

A BNCC statement said 20 of the 81 spots fall outside its jurisdiction. Issues have been resolved at 50 locations; work is underway at four and desilting is on at two.

BNCC Commissioner Pommala Sunil Kumar visited a few such spots on Monday.

Kumar visited the storm water drain near Sparsh Hospital on Hennur-Bagalur Main Road and reviewed waterlogging issues during heavy rainfall. He directed officials to immediately remove floating waste and obstructions that could hinder the free flow of rainwater.

Noting that a few identified spots fall outside the BNCC jurisdiction, Kumar asked that the issues be taken up with the respective city corporation. He also asked staff to coordinate with their counterparts in other corporations to prevent waterlogging on roads.

"The commissioner told the officials that even if certain waterlogging locations do not directly fall under the BNCC's jurisdiction, any obstacles or contributing factors originating within the BNCC limits should be identified and addressed promptly in the interest of public convenience," a BNCC statement said.

"If waterlogging within the BNCC limits is caused by issues originating in neighbouring civic jurisdictions, officials should coordinate with the authorities and accord priority to resolving such problems."

Bottle drop bin inaugurated

BENGALURU, DHNS: A plastic bottle drop bin made from repurposed tree guards was inaugurated at the Atal Bihari Vajpayee Stadium in HSR Layout, as part of the International Yoga Day celebrations.

The bin was inaugurated by MLA M Sathish Reddy and has been conceptualised and implemented by the HSR Citizen Forum to promote waste segregation, recycling and sustainable living. The bottle collection unit was created using discarded tree guards that would otherwise have been scrapped. The facility enables residents to dispose of used PET bottles, ensuring they are recycled instead of ending up as litter in public spaces.

KBG: Tenders for 75-km elevated corridors likely within a year

BENGALURU, DHNS: Greater Bengaluru Development Minister Krishna Byre Gowda on Monday said Bengaluru Smart Infrastructure Ltd (B-SMILE) would float tenders for the construction of 75 km of elevated corridors within a year.

Amid opposition to car-centric projects that merely shift congestion from one junction to another, Gowda dismissed the criticism, saying the proposed flyovers are part of an end-to-end solution to the city's traffic woes.

"Traffic congestion is the number one problem in Bengaluru. The government is investing in metro, bus and road development projects. If we build just a small flyover across one junction, the traffic shifts to the next signal. A piecemeal solution will not help. Hence, a blueprint has been prepared to build longer elevated corridors," the minister said after reviewing the projects with senior officials.

He added that a plan to build 150 km of elevated corridors, each stretching between 2 km and 13 km, has been prepared.

"Some of these projects will be taken up under the public-private partnership (PPP) mode. The government will provide viability gap funding wherever necessary," he said, adding that tenders for 75 km of elevated corridors would be floated within a year.

"It will take three to four years to complete the work," he said. "The objective is to provide a long-term solution to Bengaluru's traffic congestion." The minister also said the government is planning a 275-km metro network.

Explaining the tunnel road projects, Gowda said tenders for the North-South tunnel corridor between Hebbal and Silk Board had already been floated and the proposal was awaiting approval from the state government. "There is also a plan to build an East-West tunnel road. Tenders have not been floated yet."

"Traffic congestion is the number one problem in Bengaluru. The government is investing in metro, bus and road development projects. If we build just a small flyover across one junction, the traffic shifts to the next signal. A piecemeal solution will not help. Hence, a blueprint has been prepared to build longer elevated corridors. – **KRISHNA BYRE GOWDA,** Greater Bengaluru Development Minister

Bengaluru set for 450 km of additional white-topped roads

Blueprint ready for major expansion, says B-SMILE

BENGALURU, DHNS

Bengaluru Smart Infrastructure Ltd (B-SMILE) is preparing a blueprint to white-top an additional 450 km of roads across Bengaluru at an estimated cost of Rs 3,000 crore.

Greater Bengaluru Development Minister Krishna Byre Gowda, who held his first review meeting with B-SMILE officials, said concrete roads offer a long-term solution to pothole-related complaints.

Addressing reporters, Byregowda said a kilometre of white-topped road costs around Rs 10 crore, compared to about Rs 4 crore for a bituminous road.

"Even though the initial investment is high, white-topped roads have a lifespan of 20 to 30 years and help reduce recurring maintenance costs. The footpaths are also better," he said.

He said that a total of 196 km of roads were white-topped in the first and second phases of the project.

"In the third phase, 126 km of roads were approved. So far, work on 58 km has been completed. I have instructed officials to expedite the remaining work and complete it within six months," he said.

Gowda said there were no issues in releasing funds to contractors, but questioned officials about delays in execution. "Roads are dug up for white-topping work and then left unattended for months. I also see construction materials being stored in a haphazard manner. This is contributing to traffic congestion. This must end," he said.

On the proposed redevelopment of the Outer Ring Road stretch between KR Puram and Central Silk Board, the Byatarayanapura MLA said the Rs 450-crore project had not been shelved.

"The government has committed the funds. Now that metro work is underway, the project will be taken up once metro operations begin," he said.

Why white-top roads where flyovers are planned?

During the review meeting, Minister Krishna Byre Gowda questioned B-SMILE's rationale for white-topping roads that are part of proposed elevated road projects.

"When there is a plan to build a flyover, why white-top the road? Let us not waste money due to a lack of application of mind," Gowda said, directing officials to prioritise roads that do not feature in the proposed elevated road network.

He also suggested merging the main carriageway and service roads along the Outer Ring Road. He argued that 7 to 8 feet of space between the service road and the main carriageway was being wasted because of poor road design.

"It serves no purpose, nor does it help pedestrians," he said.

NSO surveys to chart how Indians migrate, borrow and farm

BENGALURU, DHNS: The National Statistics Office (NSO) on Monday launched three nationwide socioeconomic surveys in the city, covering migration, household debt and agricultural finances.

The Field Operations Division (FOD) of the NSO is executing the three exercises: the Survey on Migration, the All India Debt and Investment Survey (AIDIS), and the Situation Assessment Survey of Agricultural Households (SAS).

Inaugurating a regional training camp running over two days, Manohar R, NSO Regional Office Bengaluru's Deputy Director General, stressed the importance of the data being collected.

"Official statistics form the bedrock of evidence-based policymaking. Collecting accurate and reliable ground-level information through these surveys is absolutely critical to shaping future development programmes," Manohar said.

The migration survey will examine seasonal and return migration, employment profiles of migrants, reasons for relocation and remittance flows.

The AIDIS will map household assets, capital formation and indebtedness, providing a fresh picture of financial inclusion across urban and rural households.

Two arrested for robbing commuter at knifepoint in early morning attack

BENGALURU, DHNS: The Sampigehalli police have arrested two men for allegedly robbing a person of Rs 9,000 after threatening him with weapons. The accused have been identified as Mohammed Nayim, 20, and Syed Wasim, 26, both residents of DJ Halli.

According to the police, the incident took place between 4.30 am and 4.40 am on June 17 near Saraipalya.

The complainant was allegedly intercepted by the accused, who arrived on a scooter. The duo reportedly brandished a knife and a metal rod, threatened the victim, and robbed him of Rs 9,000.

Following the registration of the case, the Sampigehalli police analysed CCTV footage from the area and identified the suspects. They were subsequently arrested in DJ Halli.

The police seized a Suzuki Access scooter used in the crime and recovered Rs 1,000 from the accused. The remaining amount is believed to have been spent. The accused were produced before a court and remanded in judicial custody.

◆ IN THE CITY ◆

GEENRAL

'Samvidhan Nudi Samhite' book release: Inauguration by Shivaraj V Patil, Author: Santhosh Hanagalla, Chairman: Purushottam Bilimale; Kannada Development Authority, Nayana Hall, Kannada Bhavan, JC Road; 11 am.

'Chitra Bharati' Art Camp: Exhibition of art works in pictorial genres from various states of the country; Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan, Srirampur; 11 am to 1 am and 3 pm to 6 pm.

'Broken Foot Journal and Other Stories' Special Art Exhibition: Reba Hore's Birth Centenary; 'Seagull' Kolkata; Karnataka Chitrakala Parishad, Kumarakrupa Road; 11 am.

26th Year Pravachana Vahini: Lecture on 'Narayana Parva in Bhagavatam'; Cultural Hall, Ragigudda Sri Prasanna Anjaneya Swamy Bhaktamandali Trust, Jayanagar 9th Block; 6.30 pm.

◆ CITY WEATHER ◆

FORECAST

Rain or thundershowers would occur towards evening or night

TEMPERATURES

Maximum	29.9°C
Minimum	21.9°C
Rainfall (as of 8:30 am)	NIL
Humidity (as of 5:30 pm)	60%
Sunset (Jun 23)	6:48 pm
Sunrise (Jun 24)	5:55 am
Moonrise	12:39 pm
Moonset	12:10 am

(Relevant data recorded at 5.30 pm) Source: IMD

GREEN MISSION

GBA, civic bodies back BDA's 15-lakh sapling drive

BENGALURU, DHNS

The Greater Bengaluru Authority (GBA) and the city's five corporations will join the Bangalore Development Authority's (BDA) drive to plant 15 lakh native saplings across 314 locations on June 27.

The plantation campaign will cover 243 acres, including areas in Dr Shivaram Karanth Layout, Nadaprabhu Kempegowda Layout, and Banashankari 6th Stage.

At a meeting on Monday, GBA Chief Commissioner M Maheshwar Rao and BDA Commissioner Major P Manivannan reviewed preparations for the event with commissioners of the five corporations.

The identified sites have been divided into 49 zones, each headed by a designated zone commander.

The plantation drive is being organised to mark Nadaprabhu Kempegowda Jayanti. Authorities said they are aiming to create a world record through the mass participation initiative.

To facilitate public participation, metro train frequency will be increased on the day of the event and free bus services will operate between metro stations and plantation sites.

Officials said food, portable toilets, parking facilities and medical support, including doctors and nurses, will be provided at the venues.

The GBA said participants will receive digital certificates recognising them as "Green Bengaluru Architects", while outstanding contributors will be honoured with gold, silver and bronze medals.

24x7 helpline

A 24x7 helpline (9483166622) has been set up for the public. Citizens can register for the drive and obtain details through the campaign website.

Not 89, over 749 trees at risk for Indiranagar flyover

BENGALURU, DHNS: The proposed elevated corridor through Indiranagar may affect far more trees than officially estimated.

An independent tree survey by Indiranagar residents has found at least 749 trees along the alignment of the proposed elevated corridor connecting Old Madras Road and Hosur Road. The detailed project report (DPR), however, mentions that only 89 trees will be cut and 70 trimmed. The survey is not yet complete.

On Sunday, more than 100 residents, supported by I Change Indiranagar, walked along the proposed corridor running through Indiranagar's 80 Feet Road, 100 Feet Road and CMH Road to count and document trees that could be affected by the project, proposed by Bengaluru Smart Infrastructure Ltd (B-SMILE).

Residents organised the exercise amid concerns over what they termed a mismatch between the numbers mentioned in the DPR and the actual tree cover on the ground. While one section of the DPR states that 89 trees will be axed, another, on compensatory afforestation, notes that 235 fall within the construction width of the corridor. However, the citizen survey, conducted using the Urban Tree Map application developed by Nature's Ark, has so far documented 749 trees from 1,500 photographs, with the final count expected to rise. Residents said preliminary findings show that 90% of the trees recorded are healthy.

The survey recorded tree species, including mahogany, gulmohur and rain tree. Residents also spotted birds such as white-cheeked barbet, Asian koel and rose-ringed parakeet during the exercise.

Gym trainer who assaulted wife in court found murdered; 4 arrested

Victim's extramarital affair believed to have led to the crime

A gym trainer booked for allegedly assaulting his wife inside a court hall was found murdered on the outskirts of Bengaluru.

The victim, 32-year-old Vijay Kumar, had come under the police scanner earlier this month after he attacked his wife and issued a death threat to her inside the court complex.

The incident occurred when the woman appeared before the court in connection with a family dispute.

In the first week of June, Kumar's body was found on a vacant site at Kaleshwari village in Jigani under suspicious circumstances, police said. Police registered a murder case after finding multiple injuries on the body.

Vijay Kumar

Based on the evidence gathered, police arrested four people: Sriram, Sumith, Venkateshaiah, and Babu R. Preliminary investigation suggests that the accused conspired to eliminate Kumar following his affair with a woman he had met at the gym in KR Puram.

A senior police officer said the victim's family claimed Kumar's extramarital affair had become known in the village, and his lover's father and a gang had come to his native Mulbagal in Kolar district and warned him to stay away. They even issued death threats.

"Based on the allegations, we are probing the case in all possible angles," the investigation officer told *DH*, adding that police were also verifying whether the murder was preplanned and if others had assisted the accused before or after the killing.

Worker killed, 3 youths injured in separate crashes

A factory employee was killed and three youths were critically injured in two separate road accidents reported under the Peenya and Yelahanka traffic police limits.

In the first incident, Gouri Shankar (34), a resident of Manjunatha Nagar, died after a speeding Tempo Traveller rammed his two-wheeler on Vishal Main Road in north Bengaluru around 5 am on Monday.

Police said Shankar was on his way to work at the Himalaya store when the vehicle hit his two-wheeler, causing fatal injuries. He died on the spot.

Peenya traffic police have registered a case and are investigating.

Bike accident

In the second incident, three youths sustained critical injuries after their motorcycle crashed into a car near Singanayakanahalli around midnight on Sunday.

Police said the car was taking a U-turn on the busy stretch when the Royal Enfield motorcycle, travelling from Bengaluru towards Doddaballapur, crashed into it.

Passersby rushed the injured riders — Aathish, Naveen and Hariharan, all from Chennai — to a nearby hospital. They are undergoing treatment. The Yelahanka traffic police have registered a case and launched an investigation.

Two killed in hit-and-run

Two pedestrians, including a Nepali working as a security guard, were killed in separate hit-and-run accidents under the Whitefield and KR Puram traffic police limits on Sunday night.

In the first incident, 31-year-old security guard, Kapendra Mahji, was fatally knocked down by a speeding water tanker while he was crossing the road near Gandhi Circle in Varthur around 8 pm. Mahji died on the spot. The tanker driver fled after the accident.

The Whitefield traffic police have registered a case and launched an investigation.

In the second incident, an unidentified pedestrian was killed in a hit-and-run on the Medahalli flyover under the KR Puram traffic police limits around 10.45 pm.

Police said a speeding vehicle hit the victim and fled without stopping. The pedestrian suffered severe injuries and died on the spot.

An accident case has been registered. Police are examining CCTV footage from the area to identify the vehicle, trace the driver, and establish the victim's identity.

Varthur STP drowning: Firm booked for death by negligence; one worker still missing

Special team operating sonar and underwater cameras deployed as NDRF takes over rescue operations

PRAJWAL D'SOUZA
BENGALURU, DHNS

Varthur police have invoked death by negligence against a Chennai firm after two workers drowned at a sewage treatment plant run by the Bangalore Water Supply and Sewerage Board (BWSSB).

"Soon after the first body was discovered, BNS Section 106 relating to death by negligence was invoked and added to the FIR against Va Tech Wabag Ltd from Sunnambu Kolathur, Chennai," a senior police officer told *DH*.

Va Tech Wabag Ltd was named as an accused after an FIR was registered on June 19 on a complaint by BWSSB AEE Santosh Kumar.

At the time, the contractor was booked under BNS Section 125 (act endangering life or personal safety of others).

The company held a contract spanning five years to operate and maintain the STP where the incident occurred on June 18, the FIR stated.

Supervisor Agilan Mohan, 30, and Brijesh Kumar, 27, from Bihar fell into the wet well and were swept away by wastewater.

While Mohan's body was recovered, the search for Kumar continued through Monday, but to no avail.

A police officer at the scene told *DH* that the National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) was overseeing the rescue operations after the handover. City police, State Disaster Response Force (SDRF) and fire and emergency services are assisting the force.

The search operation by NDRF and fire and emergency services personnel began on Friday.
PHOTO: BCP

"The heavy flow of the drainage water is hindering the rescue operations," the police officer said.

"The rescue personnel used an excavator and even manually searched using oxygen tanks, but due to the accumulation of waste, the body was not found.

Now, officials will remove sand bags and place metal sheets at the spot where they fell in. Once the water is drained, they will continue the search.

A specialised team operating sonar and underwater cameras has also been deployed to aid the rescuers."

STP upkeep still requires human intervention, say experts

SNEHA RAMESH
BENGALURU, DHNS

The recent accident at a sewage treatment plant (STP) in Varthur has renewed concerns over worker safety during maintenance operations, with experts pointing out that human intervention remains unavoidable despite advances in automation.

While manual scavenging is prohibited, maintenance activities at STPs are distinct from manual scavenging and often require workers to enter treatment units to carry out repairs and inspections, experts said.

Maintenance work typically involves repairing gates, valves and other equipment. Although many operational processes can be automated, manual intervention is still necessary for several maintenance tasks.

"Pumping sewage from one tank to another, monitoring levels and similar operations can be fully automated. However, maintenance work in any STP often requires human intervention. At times, accumulated solids have to be removed or repairs carried out. Automated systems can issue alerts, but the actual work has to be done manually," said Deepthi Nagappa, Research Manager, Urban Water Program, WELL Labs. She said the situation is no different even in modern STPs equipped with advanced automation systems.

Experts, however, maintained that such accidents can largely be prevented through strict adherence to safety protocols. They noted that STPs are designed with safety features, including access steps and protective barriers.

"Like wells or sumps, treatment tanks have steps that can be used during emergencies. However, workers must use the prescribed safety gear and follow safety procedures before entering any tank," an expert said.

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3 cases booked following special drive against wine shops, bars

BENGALURU, DHNS: The North Division of the Bengaluru police registered three cases during a special drive conducted against bars, restaurants, and wine shops within its jurisdiction, officials said on Monday.

The drive, which began in the early hours of the day and continued until 10 am, led to the booking of three cases after officials found violations of provisions of the Excise Act at the establishments concerned, police said.

"During the operation, surprise inspections were carried out at wine shops, bars, and restaurants located within the limits of 13 police stations. A total of 69 wine shops and 64 bars and restaurants were inspected," the city police said in a statement.

Influencer used reels to befriend and fleece bizmen, arrested

BENGALURU, DHNS: Mahalakshmi Layout police have arrested a 31-year-old social media influencer on charges of cheating businessmen by befriending them online and collecting money on false promises.

The accused has been identified as Vanitha, a resident of Sunkadakatte.

Police said Vanitha would befriend businessmen on social networking platforms by introducing herself as an influencer, send them her reels and, after gaining their trust, seek money citing personal emergencies.

In some cases, she claimed her jewellery had been pledged and sought money to redeem it, promising to return the amount within two or three days.

She collected cash at isolated spots away from CCTV cameras, then stopped responding to calls and messages from the victims.

During the probe, police found similar complaints registered against Vanitha at the Govindarajanagar and Jnanabharathi police stations over the past few months.

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VICTORIS

Hundreds of farmers take part in the convention organised against township project in Byramangala, near Bidadi, on Monday.

Now, Congress ally opposes township project

Sarvodaya Karnataka Paksha urges govt to drop plan

BIDADI (BENGALURU SOUTH DISTRICT), DHNS

Sarvodaya Karnataka Paksha, an ally of the ruling Congress, has urged the state government to drop the controversial Greater Bengaluru Integrated Township project (Bidadi).

"Farmers should not be pushed on to the streets in the name of township project. I support the stance of the Raitha Sangha against the project," party MLA Darshan Puttannaiah said. He was addressing a convention organised by Karnataka Rajya Raitha Sangha (KRRS) at Byramangala, opposing the township project.

The MLA said that he would take a delegation of farmers from Byramangala and Kanchugaranahalli villages to Chief Minister D K Shivakumar urging the later to drop the township plan.

He said that constructing huge buildings in the name of industrial area or developing township on fertile lands is not development. "The concept of development needs to be changed in this regard" he said.

KRRS president Badagalapura Nagendra demanded the chief minister to disclose the details of the farmers who have offered to part with their lands for the project. "We will also reveal the particulars of majority of farmers who are against this plan," he said.

Before the convention, farmers took out a bike rally and movement of vehicles was restricted at Byramangala circle till the conclusion of the convention.

3 of family end lives by suicide

T NARSIPUR (MYSURU DISTRICT), DHNS: A bride, who was about to get married on Wednesday, and her parents died by suicide, leaving behind a death note, at Kemapaiahanahundi village in the taluk on Monday.

Shivanna, his wife Nagarathna and daughter Rakshitha are the deceased.

The wedding of Rakshitha was scheduled to be held on Wednesday (June 24). It is alleged that Ullas Gowda of the same village had been harassing Rakshitha and had blackmailed her with some messages and pictures that were sent by her.

It is alleged that Ullas had even sent the messages to the bridegroom. Unable to bear the harassment and fearing adverse consequences, Rakshitha and her parents consumed poison. The death note left by them claimed that Ullas Gowda was responsible for their deaths.

SP Mallikarjuna Baladandi and the T Narsipur police visited the spot. The accused has been taken into custody.

CM invites HDK for open debate on Bidadi township at Soudha

Ex-CM seeks stakeholders' presence; date & venue change

BENGALURU, DHNS

The political tussle over the proposed Greater Bengaluru Integrated Township near Bidadi intensified on Monday, with Chief Minister D K Shivakumar and Union Minister for Heavy Industries and Steel H D Kumaraswamy exchanging official correspondence over an open debate on land acquisition and farmer compensation.

The exchange began with Shivakumar issuing an official letter to Kumaraswamy. In the letter, the chief minister invited the union minister to a high-level discussion at his office in Vidhana Soudha.

"Regarding Bidadi township project, which was initiated during your tenure, I am keen to hold a comprehensive discussion with you. I request you and a team of five representatives to attend a meeting at my office in Vidhana Soudha on June 26," Shivakumar stated in the letter.

Hours after receiving the CM's letter, Kumaraswamy issued a response. While thanking the chief minister for the invitation, the JD(S) leader rejected a closed-door meeting at the Secretariat, arguing that it would remain unfruitful if actual affected stakeholders were excluded.

In his reply, Kumaraswamy laid down a counter-proposal. He urged the CM to shift the debate from Vidhana Soudha to a public space in either Bidadi or Byramangala, epicenters of the ongoing farmers' agitation.

Citing prior official engagements on June 26, the union minister requested that the public meeting be rescheduled to June 27.

He also demanded that the affected public, including local women engaged in animal husbandry and small business owners, be allowed to voice their grievances directly to the administration.

I withdrew proposal in farmers' interest: HDK

Accusing the Congress of doing a volte-face on the Bidadi Township project, Union Minister H D Kumaraswamy on Monday released a set of written replies to the Assembly documenting the Congress party's opposition to the project when he had proposed the same during his tenure as chief minister.

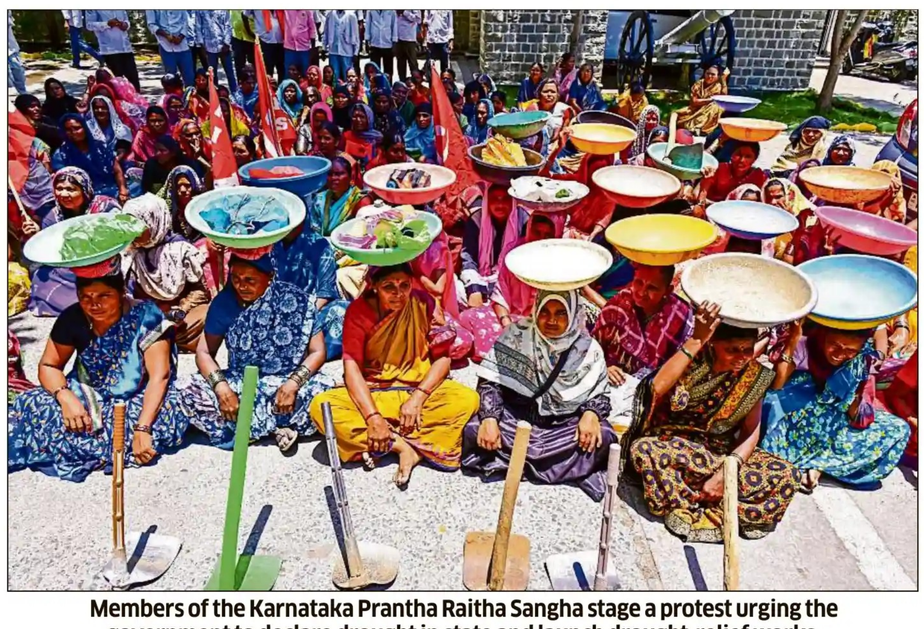
Addressing a news conference, the Karnataka JD(S) president displayed copies of the Assembly proceedings dating back to 2006 when Siddaramaiah and D K Shivakumar, who were in the opposition, had opposed his proposal to develop townships at five locations.

"I withdrew the proposal in August 2007 to safeguard the farmers' interests. I have had no role in the project since," said Kumaraswamy.

Expressing his displeasure over attempts made to link him to the project, Kumaraswamy pointed out that the preliminary notification for land acquisition for the project was issued on March 12, 2025, while the final notification was issued on June 10, 2026.

"The project is not being executed through official channels. Middlemen and real-estate merchants are running this project from their private offices near Nagarabhavi," said the Union Minister, adding that the authorities had failed to respond to objections submitted by nearly 4,500 farmers.

SEEKING QUICK AID



Members of the Karnataka Prantha Raitha Sangha stage a protest urging the government to declare drought in state and launch drought-relief works, in Kalaburagi on Monday. DH PHOTO/TAJUDDIN AZAD

Oz firm discovers gold deposits near Haveri village

HAVERI, DHNS

An Australia-based industrial consultant company has estimated mineral deposits (oxide and sulphide) of 27 lakh MT in Ganajuru village of Haveri taluk. According to its report, each tonne of mineral could yield approximately 3.40 gm of gold.

The Bannegudda area in Ganajuru village of Haveri taluk, where gold deposits have been detected.

Ganajuru village is situated 6 KM away from Haveri town. The mineral exploration study was conducted in the vicinity of Bannegudda of Ganajuru.

Deccan Gold Mining Company had conducted an aerial and geological survey of the area. It's sister concern Deccan Exploration Services had entrusted further studies to Snowden Mining Industry Consultants of Australia. A team of the said firm led by a geologist camped in Ganajuru village and conducted the study by extracting mineral samples from the earth.

After conducting the study for two years from 2015, the team submitted a report to Deccan Gold Mining Company in 2017.

Based on this report, the said company had sought permission for taking up gold mining. However, permission was not granted in view of the violation of the laws in force at that time.

A recent judgment of the Supreme Court in a mining case from Maharashtra is said to be favourable for commencing mining at Ganajuru.

The report states that main gold deposit is located just beneath Bennegudda and the mineral is spread over 72 acres. It further adds that gold mining could be conducted here with "ordinary-sized pits."

The mineral exploration team had drilled borewells at 200 locations on 480 acres of land. Stones with mineral content were found even before groundwater deposit was hit.

The report says that the mineral deposit is situated close to National Highway, railway station, Varada river and other infrastructure and therefore is an ideal location for mining.

CS seats: CM moves cautiously on varsities' bid to bypass cap

BENGALURU, DHNS

Some private universities have reportedly attempted to bypass the government's decision on capping the number of engineering seats in computer science (CS) and related streams.

The then higher education minister Dr M C Sudhakar had not permitted some private universities to increase seats as they already had a high intake.

After the erstwhile Cabinet was dissolved, some universities tried to get their seats added to the matrix through some officials in higher education department.

Highly placed sources in the chief minister's office said the request of a few private universities for seat enhancement in computer science and related streams was declined by Sudhakar.

But they managed to get extra seats added to the matrix when it was submitted to Chief Minister D K Shivakumar, as he holds the higher education portfolio now.

However, the CM contacted Sudhakar when the file regarding seat matrix and no objection certificate came to him.

Shivakumar realised that some private universities were trying to manipulate the government's decision.

Clarifying on this, Sudhakar said, "I provided all details to the chief minister including our intention behind the constitution of the Sadagopan committee on reforms in technical education and explained to him about the major recommendations and the government order (GO)."

Sudhakar apprised the CM about the reasons for government's refusal to increase seats in CS and related streams at some of the institutions.

Sources said that a delegation of representatives from private universities met the CM on the issue and requested him to allow seat enhancement.

"That delegation included representatives from a few private universities which already have 3,000 plus seats in CS and related streams. Further enhancement has been declined by the government," sources said.

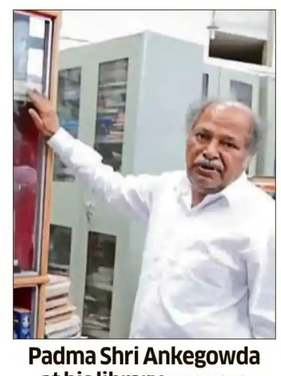
When asked about this and the delay in providing final seat matrix for engineering courses, the chief minister reportedly said he had cleared some files on seat matrix. He directed the principal secretary to the department of higher education to check and send pending files on the same to him.

What Sadagopan panel said

The Sadagopan committee had recommended a 17% gradual cut in seats given to CS and related subjects and restricted the intake to 900 (total) for all five CS and related combinations put together.

The institutions which already have 300 plus seats in CS and related combinations must obtain a National Board of Accreditation certificate within 2 years from the date the GO is issued. For new institutions, it has recommended an intake of 60 students for any given course at any private university or private engineering college to begin with. The committee recommended an increment of 60 intakes per year, subject to a maximum of 180 seats for first four years.

The issue regarding CS seats at some private universities crossing 3,000 (in one particular university) was raised in the Legislative Council and the members had demanded a cap on the same.



Padma Shri Ankegowda at his library. DH PHOTO

CM orders land, new bldg for Ankegowda's book collection

BENGALURU, DHNS: Chief Minister D K Shivakumar on Monday ordered officials to quickly find land and build a permanent building, library, for over 20 lakh rare books collected by Padma Shri awardee M Ankegowda.

Shivakumar gave this order directly to Additional Chief Secretary Tushar Girinath after Ankegowda met the CM to ask for help at Vidhana Soudha.

The books are currently kept in Pandavapura, Mandya district, under the 'Ankegowda Jnana Pratishthana.'

The chief minister quickly wrote an order on the paper to give 2 acres of land and Rs 5 crore for the library setup in Mandya.

During the meeting, the chief minister honoured Ankegowda for his hard work. Ankegowda explained that this was the biggest personal library in the country.

He said that if the government provides a proper building, it will become a great place for children to learn.

Ankegowda, who showed the chief minister some very rare old coins and postage stamps from his collection, also submitted a letter to Shivakumar.

In his letter, Ankegowda had requested help for things like a proper reading room, computers, and a system to protect the old books. MLC Dinesh Gooligowda was also present during the meeting.

18 bonded labourers rescued from brick kiln

MYSURU, DHNS: The District Legal Services Authority, with the help of police, rescued 18 bonded labourers from a brick factory at Bevinahalli village in T Narsipur taluk of Mysuru district, on Monday. Police have arrested three persons in this regard.

The arrested are Yathiraj, Girish and Mahadeva of Bevinahalli village. A case has been registered against the trio at Bannur police station. They have been handed in judicial custody.

According to police, the accused were operating a brick kiln at an agricultural land.

They had engaged the labourers paying advance, and assured of paying them Rs 1,000 per week, after the advance amount is settled. The labourers have been working at the kiln for several years. If they tried to escape, they were assaulted and made to forcibly work in the factory.

Engineering student ends life in hostel

TUMAKURU, DHNS: An engineering student ended his life at Backward Classes Hostel in Upparahalli of Tumakuru.

The deceased has been identified as Venkatesh (22). He hailed from Jagaluru in Davangere district, and was studying civil engineering at Siddaganga Institute of Technology.

He hung himself from the fan in the hostel room on Sunday night. The incident came to light on Monday morning. The reason for the extreme step is not yet known. Police have registered a case.

DH Classifieds

PERSONAL

Change of Name

CHANGE OF NAME
I, SHRIVSTAVA ARUNESH R/at Flat No. 101, Vars Casa Cerise, 10th Cross, Pai Layout, Opp. Sweet Chariot, Doorvaninagar, Bengaluru North-560016, have changed my name to ARUNESH SHRIVASTAVA vide affidavit dt:17-06-2026 before notary J.Anand Kumar, Bengaluru.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, UMME MOMINA W/o. Ilyaz Ahmed R/a, Ward No.15, No.2591, Madarasa Inam-ululoom Nalbandwadi Mohalla, Ramanagara Town-562 159 Bengaluru South have changed my Father's name from MOHAMED AKHIL AHMED to MOHAMMED AKHIL vide affidavit dated 18-06-2026 Sworn bdefore Notary Vinod Kumar S., Ramanagara.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, UMME MOMINA W/o. Ilyaz Ahmed R/a, Ward No.15, No. 2591, Madarasa Inam-ululoom Nalbandwadi Mohalla, Ramanagara Town-562 159 Bengaluru South have changed my name from UMME MOMENA to UMME MOMINA vide affidavit dated 18-06-2026 Sworn bdefore Notary Vinod Kumar S., Ramanagara.

I, JAYANTH SHAILENDRA KUMAR, S/o Shailendra Kumar B.S R/o, #168 Kalyan Co.operative Society Gnanabharati, Doddabasti Road, Nagadevanahalli Bangalore-56 have changed my name as JAYANTH SHAILENDRA vide affidavit dated 20.06.2026 before Notary H. Sridhar Rao, Bengaluru

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CHANGE OF NAME
I, ZAHIDA JAMAL and JAHIDA JAMAL, residing at #227, Yelahanka Main Road, Chikkabetta halli, Vidyaranyapura Post, Bengaluru-560097, declare that the above names pertain to me only & henceforth I shall be known as ZAHIDA JAMAL and that in my previously held passport, my Date of Birth was erroneously recorded as 20-January-1975 my correct and actual Date of Birth is 04-April-1975, vide affidavit dated 18-06-2026 before notary H Sridhar Rao, Bangalore.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, MOHAMMAD KASIM ALI, residing No. B-202, 2nd Floor, DS Max Skyscape, Rampura, Bidarahalli Post, Bengaluru-560049, have changed my name to MOHAMMAD KHASIM ALI vide affidavit dated 22-06-2026 before notary Uday Kumar K, Bengaluru. Henceforth I shall be called MOHAMMAD KHASIM ALI only

CHANGE OF NAME
I, EASHWARI M, residing No.13, 1st Main Road, 3rd Cross, Muneshwara Layout, Basaveshwara nagar, Bengaluru-560079, have changed my name to EASHWARI NAVEEN VANDAL vide affidavit dated 22-06-2026 before notary H.R. Karunakara, Bengaluru.

I, NAGINA BANU, Residing at #148, 1st cross, 4th main, Rajagopalnagar Peenya 2nd stage Bengaluru-58 have changed my name as NAGEENA BANU, vide affidavit dated 22/6/2026 before Notary V.Rajashekhara Bengaluru

I, FELICIA JENNIFER, residing at Bengaluru-91 have changed my name as FELICIA JENNIFER DEVASAGAYAM FELIX JEROME, vide affidavit dated 22/06/2026 before Notary K.S. Bammappanavar, Bengaluru

Announcements

ANNOUNCEMENT
I, MOHAMMED AEJAZ S/o Noor Ahmed, residing at No. 227, Yelahanka Main Road, Chikkabetta halli, Vidyaranyapura Post, Bengaluru-560097, declare that in my previously held passport, my Date of Birth was erroneously recorded as 05-May-1967 my correct and actual Date of Birth is 01-January-1967 vide affidavit dated 18-06-2026 before notary H Sridhar Rao, Bangalore.

HC permits removal of uterus from a patient with mental health issues

AMBARISH B
BENGALURU, DHNS

The High Court of Karnataka has granted permission to a Bengaluru couple to have total abdominal hysterectomy (removal of uterus) performed on their 23-year-old daughter having mental health issues.

The girl is stated to be suffering from severe developmental and intellectual disabilities which substantially impair her ability to understand, manage and perform even basic activities of daily living.

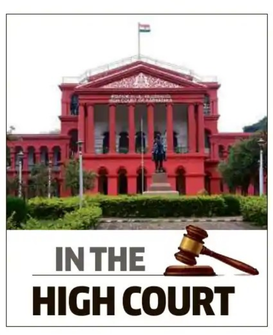
The petitioners couple submitted various reports, including reports pertaining to Denver Developmental Screening Test (DDST), indicating significant developmental and social adaptive deficits.

It was submitted that though chronologically 23 years of age, their daughter's cognitive, developmental and adaptive functioning remains severely compromised.

It was submitted that despite attaining physical adulthood, she remains entirely dependent upon them for her daily needs and is unable to communicate effectively regarding her physical discomforts, medical concerns or menstrual difficulties.

Medical Board

Considering the nature of the serious medical, ethical and legal issues, the court appointed a multidisciplinary Medical Board at Vanivilas Hospital to independently evaluate the medical condition.



The Board, upon consideration of the opinions by all specialists, concluded that the patient is suffering from Global Developmental Delay associated with Moderate Permanent Intellectual and Developmental Disability, having an IQ of 36, and is also suffering from a seizure disorder.

"In exercising its parens patriae jurisdiction, the paramount consideration for this Court is the best interests of the person concerned. Having regard to the findings recorded by the Medical Board, the nature and extent of the patient's intellectual and developmental disabilities, her inability to independently manage menstrual hygiene, the recurring medical complications highlighted by the petitioners, the absence of any medical contraindication and the unanimous recommendation of the Medical Board, this Court is satisfied that the proposed procedure is intended to advance the welfare, health, dignity and best interests of (X)," Justice Suraj Govindaraj said, while directing the procedure to be conducted at Vanivilas Hospital.

The court further said, "The Medical Board or such specialists as may be nominated by the Medical Superintendent shall monitor the patient's post-operative recovery and ensure that all appropriate follow-up treatment and medical support are provided. A brief report regarding the conduct of the procedure and the post-operative condition of the patient shall be placed before the Registrar General of this Court within a period of eight weeks from the date of the procedure."

SNIPPETS

Ministerial berth sought for Saleem Ahmed

BENGALURU, DHNS: A delegation of Muslim clerics met Chief Minister D K Shivakumar on Monday and sought a ministerial berth for senior lawmaker Saleem Ahmed from the Kittur Karnataka region.

"It's been two decades since a Muslim from Kittur Karnataka became a minister. Having a minister will help the progress of the region," All Karnataka Sunni Mashaik Council convenor Syed Tajuddin Qadri said.

Syed Haider Pasha Khadri from Vijayapura, who also batted for Ahmed, pointed out that there were five Muslims in S M Krishna's Cabinet.

Expedite recruitment in Revenue Dept, says minister

BENGALURU, DHNS: Revenue and Deputy Chief Minister G Parameshwara on Monday asked Revenue Department officials to expedite the recruitment process for various posts.

He also said that there should be no delay in promotions to officers and staff.

Parameshwara chaired a meeting with officials. "Pending files should be cleared quickly. At the same time, the progress of all departmental activities must be reviewed regularly, with a focus on achieving targets. Administrative processes should be accelerated further to ensure better services to the public," Parameshwara said.

He also said that assistant commissioners (ACs) should be entrusted with greater responsibility to improve the department's efficiency.

"All online and public services of the department, including e-Pauti Khata, should be completed within the stipulated time frame. Efficiency and transparency must be maintained in service delivery so that citizens are not forced to make unnecessary visits to government offices," he said.

In Dharwad, Cong may tap into 'sympathy', field Kulkarni's kin

By-election ticket likely for wife or daughter; BJP may field female nominee to counter

Vinay Kulkarni

SHRINIDHI R
DHARWAD, DHNS

The disqualification of Dharwad Congress MLA Vinay Kulkarni following his conviction in the murder case of BJP leader Yogeeshgouda Goudar has set the stage for a crucial by-election.

Though Kulkarni has moved the high court seeking a stay on his conviction, no interim relief has been granted so far. If conviction stands, the election commission is likely to announce by-election in the coming months.

It is likely to revolve around two competing narratives: sympathy for Kulkarni and demands for accountability following his conviction.

Congress leaders have already begun informal discussions on potential candidates.

Party leader and Kulkarni loyalist Arvind Egangoudar said the Congress leadership was likely to field a member of Kulkarni's family.

His wife, Shivaleela Kulkarni, emerged as the face of the Congress campaign during the 2023 Assembly elections, when her husband was barred by court from entering Dharwad district.

Following his victory, she remained politically active by overseeing constituency affairs, coordinating with party workers and participating in public programmes.

Their daughter, Vaishali, has also built a growing political presence. A member of the State Wildlife Board, she actively participated in the 2023 campaign and has maintained close contact with party leaders and workers. Party insiders say Vaishali could emerge as the choice of the party high command amid Congress leader Rahul Gandhi's push for generational change.

Speaking to *DH*, Vaishali expressed confidence that the high court would grant relief to her father.

"We are 99% sure that my father will get justice. He has been made a scapegoat," she said. She said if a by-election was announced, the family was prepared to contest.

"Whether party gives ticket to my mother or me, we are confident that Congress workers and people will support us," she said.

The BJP has begun internal preparations, with party leader Savita Amarshetti emerging as a strong contender for the ticket. Political observers say the BJP may field a woman candidate to counter any sympathy wave if Congress nominates Shivaleela or Vaishali.

Unlike the 2023 polls, when former MLA Amrut Desai faced anti-incumbency sentiment contesting as a BJP nominee, Savita would enter the contest without such baggage.

A victory in Dharwad would not only strengthen the Congress' hold over an important constituency, but also boost the chief minister's standing as an electoral strategist. For BJP, the by-election offers an opportunity to reclaim a key constituency in north Karnataka.

Ahead of Hiriyur bypoll, ex-minister's son Suhas gets politically active

Cong may try to encash sentiment; JD(S) wants BJP to let it contest

NRUPATHUNGA S K
CHITRADURGA, DHNS

Suhas Sudhakar, son of 4-time MLA D Sudhakar who died last month, is gearing up to enter electoral politics as Hiriyur is likely to face bypoll in the coming months.

Though he was rarely seen alongside his father during the latter's tenure as minister, Suhas has now become politically active.

Sources say fielding a deceased legislator's family member in a by-election is a common political strategy. Suhas has been meeting his father's supporters and local leaders in the constituency.

While party leaders believe Sudhakar's wife Harshini could attract sympathy votes, she is reportedly reluctant to contest.

Suhas, a commerce graduate, said, "Party workers and people want me to stay connected with them. I am visiting different parts of the constituency to meet people and understand their grievances. I will go by the wishes of the people".

He clarified that the party has not given the family any assurance on the ticket.

Suhas clarified that the party has not given the family any assurance on the ticket.

KPCC coordinator Khalid Hussain told *DH* that Sudhakar, who belonged to Jain community, won from the constituency thrice despite the community having a small voter base there. Former MLA Poornima Srinivas and Congress leader R Manjunath are among other aspirants for the ticket.

The JD(S) is making strong efforts to ensure that its ally BJP allocates the seat to the party, citing it has a stronger base in Hiriyur than BJP. Leaders and workers of both parties are awaiting clarity on seat-sharing.

JD(S) leader D Yashodhara, who has twice unsuccessfully contested from Hiriyur, said the party has urged Union Minister H D Kumaraswamy to persuade BJP to allot the seat to the regional party.

He said several leaders, including M Raveendrappa and G Jayaramaiah, are aspiring for the ticket.

"We are awaiting directions from the party. The JD(S) and Janata Dal have won the seat once each. The JD(S) has maintained a strong grassroots presence since Janata Party era in Hiriyur. We do not want to lose this seat to BJP as it is crucial for the party's survival in the region," he said.

Hariprasad regrets students missing NEET

BENGALURU, DHNS

Karnataka Pradesh Congress Committee (KPCC) president B K Hariprasad on Monday expressed "regret" over reports that some students had missed the NEET exam.

He, however, dismissed the BJP's allegations that the Congress party's 'Sankalpa' rally at Palace Grounds on Sunday caused major traffic disruptions, leading to students missing the test.

"We organised the event on a Sunday to minimise inconvenience to public. Media reports suggest only two or three students among 720 candidates allotted to R C College centre missed the exam. If that happened because of our programme, we express regret," said Hariprasad, who assumed charge as KPCC chief at the mega rally.

"Our team will meet the affected students and we are ready to compensate for the loss they have suffered," he added. Hariprasad said the Congress programme began around 11 am, while the NEET examination was scheduled for 1.30 pm.

"The party had coordinated with police and Seva Dal volunteers to manage traffic and all buses carrying participants had reached Palace Grounds by 10.30 am and were parked inside the venue," he added.

Questioning BJP's attempt to link the rally to students missing the exam, Haripasad pointed out that 1,400 students were reportedly absent for the examination in Mysuru, while hundreds were absent in Yadgir and other districts. "What programme was held there?" he said.

Accusing the Centre of diverting attention from repeated NEET question paper leaks and uncertainty faced by lakhs of students, Hariprasad termed it "unfortunate" that a person with a "fake degree certificate" was conducting 'Pariksha Pe Charcha'.

He said BJP leaders should answer why the Centre had failed to prevent repeated irregularities in NEET, CBSE and UPSC examinations, and renewed his demand for the resignation of Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan.

Hariprasad batted for Karnataka's Common Entrance Test (CET) system.

"Karnataka successfully conducted medical admissions through CET. NEET was introduced to prevent south Indian students from getting a bigger share of seats," he alleged.

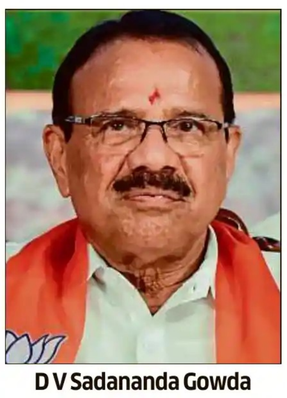
'BJP should apologise'

Home Minister Priyank Kharge said the BJP should apologise to students if it was genuinely concerned about them.

"In last 10 years, there have been 90 paper leaks. Three students missed the NEET exam. One came from Magadi, another brought an old hall ticket and one was travelling from R T Nagar. NEET rules require candidates to reach exam centres two-and-a-half hours early. At R C College, around 720 students wrote the exam, while 140 were absent. The BJP should be logical and not politicise," he said.

BJP leaders ignored alerts on cross-voting: Sadananda Gowda

BENGALURU, DHNS


D V Sadananda Gowda

Former chief minister D V Sadananda Gowda on Monday revealed that he had passed on credible information to BJP's state leadership about possible cross-voting by BJP lawmakers days before the June 18 Legislative Council polls.

"On June 13, around 7 pm, an important person told me that two or three leaders, each from BJP and Congress, were meeting at Prestige apartment (Hebbal, Bengaluru), speaking specifically about MLC polls. I immediately called our state president (B Y Vijayendra) and leader of the Opposition (R Ashoka), but neither was available. So, I informed a state general secretary and urged him to take it forward," he told a private news channel.

The revelation is significant as it exposes lack of coordination and unity within BJP state unit.

The party's internal differences are seen as an important reason for cross-voting by 11 BJP and JD(S) MLAs (exact share of each party is yet to be ascertained) and one invalid vote by a BJP MLA.

Gowda, also a former union minister, has criticised both Vijayendra and Ashoka on different occasions.

Noting that his source was not a politician, but an admirer of PM Narendra Modi, Gowda said: "Next time, the same team, with another prominent person from Congress met at an apartment next to the Prestige apartment. I tried to inform important party functionaries about this, but no one considered it seriously. Now, everyone has started waking up."

Gowda's statements come three days after a fact-finding committee comprising MLC C T Ravi, BJP state vice-president N Mahesh and Hubli-Dharwad central MLA Mahesh Tenginkai was formed to uncover the truth. The committee has been asked to submit its report by June 25.

One of the committee members told *DH* that the three members were yet to meet, adding that a meeting was planned for Tuesday in Bengaluru.

Another member explained that the committee is likely to submit its report within two or three days.

Karnataka introduces SC/ST quota in liquor licence

BENGALURU, DHNS: The state government has introduced a reservation policy for Scheduled Castes (SC) and Scheduled Tribes (ST) in liquor licence auctions. No other state in the country - such as Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh, Telangana or Kerala - has this kind of system.

In those states, licences are issued based on financial capacity, tax records and business experience. By breaking away from this traditional practice, Karnataka has set a new national example for social inclusion.

According to a government notification issued on June 17, the state has changed its old excise rules. Now, during online auctions (e-auctions) for CL-2A and CL-9A licences, a certain percentage is reserved for specific groups.

While the initial draft was published on May 26 to collect public feedback, these new rules officially come into force from the date of publication in the official Gazette.

This new rule will be followed across all districts of the state to help traders from SC and ST communities enter the liquor business easily.

TEMPLE TRUTH TEST AS WEAPON IN POLITICAL RIVALRIES

Dharmasthala Sri Manjunatheshwara temple.

BJP state president B Y Vijayendra's proposal to have the BJP legislature party meeting at Dharmasthala (Dakshina Kannada district) to uncover the truth about the cross-voting in the June 18 Legislative Council elections is the latest chapter in the long history of politicians using truth tests at Dharmasthala to score political points. Such attempts reopen the large debate on mixing divinity with politics. **Sujay B M** and **Naina J A** take a look at the 'swear by God' practice.

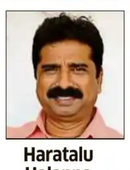
Yediyurappa

Kumaraswamy

Yediyurappa – Kumaraswamy, 2011

In 2011, former chief minister H D Kumaraswamy reportedly accused the then C M Yediyurappa of corruption, adding that the latter had sent emissaries to him to broker peace. Vehemently rejecting these charges, Yediyurappa dared Kumaraswamy to take a 'truth test' at Dharmasthala. Though Yediyurappa visited the temple town on June 27, 2011, he avoided the truth test, reportedly at the behest of the BJP central leadership. However, Kumaraswamy visited Dharmasthala on the same day and took an oath that his allegations were true.

Haratalu Halappa – Belur Gopalakrishna, 2022


Haratalu Halappa

Belur Gopalakrishna

In 2022, Congress leader Belur Gopalakrishna accused then Sagar MLA Haratalu Halappa (BJP) of accepting bribes from people involved in sand mining. On February 12, 2022, Halappa arrived at Dharmasthala and took an oath that he hadn't accepted bribes. Hours later, Gopalakrishna arrived and dared Halappa to face him directly. In the 2023 Assembly elections, Gopalakrishna defeated Halappa from Sagar.

Shivalinge Gowda – Ravikumar, 2022

Shivalinge Gowda

N Ravikumar

In 2022, BJP MLC N Ravikumar accused Arasikere MLA K M Shivalinge Gowda (then in JD(S), now in Congress) of being involved in corruption related to state ragi procurement schemes. Denying this, Gowda dared Kumar to prove his allegations in front of the deity in Dharmasthala. Gowda took an oath on August 29, 2022.

Laxmi Hebbalkar

C T Ravi

Laxmi Hebbalkar – C T Ravi, 2024

On December 19, 2024 (the last day of the winter session of the legislature in Belagavi), BJP MLC C T Ravi allegedly hurled a derogatory abuse at the then women and child development minister Laxmi Hebbalkar, leading to a major controversy. On December 24, 2024, Hebbalkar dared Ravi to testify at Dharmasthala that he hadn't hurled the abuse. However, Ravi rejected the challenge.

'Lord Manjunatha as judge'

Speaking to DH, Kannada Development Authority chairman Prof Purushothama Bilimale said that the earliest available reference to the "Aane Pramana" (truth test) at Dharmasthala was made in 1796–97 by Colonel Colin Mackenzie in Kuduma Samsthanada Kaifiyat (Kuduma is the old name for Dharmasthala).

He noted that childless individuals and families without legal heirs often donated their land to Dharmasthala temple in the past, which eventually led to the temple having huge lands, more than other temples in the region.

Though the Land Reforms Act put brakes on it, people's tru st in and respect towards the temple and its presiding deity continued, Bilimale said.

Bilimale also pointed to the well-known proverb, "Mathu Bida Manjunatha" (Manjunatha never fails to keep his word), reflecting people's beliefs.

Purushothama Bilimale

Power connection: Energy dept releases norms for OC exemption

BENGALURU, DHNS: The government on Monday passed an official order providing a one-time exemption from producing Occupancy Certificate (OC) to get permanent power supply to newly constructed houses. The exemption is applicable only to those houses completed before May 31, 2026 and are built in a plot of area 2,400 sq ft or less.

Subsequently, the Energy department released the guidelines asking citizens to file applications for permanent power connection within the next 15 days.

Escoms will immediately start verifying applications submitted before May 31, 2026. Field officers will capture and upload geo-tagged photos (with date, time, and location coordinates) of the completed building in the presence of the owner.

But owners who have completed construction but only have a temporary power connection and have not applied for a permanent connection before May 31, 2026, must apply for a permanent connection within 15 days. The applicant's name on both the temporary and permanent connection requests must match. Geotagged photographs of the site are mandatory.

For buildings completed before May 31, 2026, without any prior power connection, owners can physically register and apply at their respective sub-division offices within 15 days.

Vijayendra faces backlash in party over Dharmasthala 'swear by God' plan

Suresh Kumar, Sadananda Gowda, Bellad and Pralhad Joshi advised against it: Ashoka

BENGALURU, DHNS

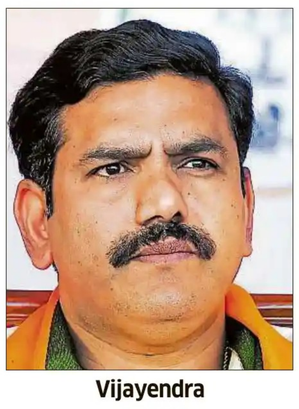
BJP state president B Y Vijayendra has faced "severe criticism" from within the party for proposing to hold the BJP's legislature party meeting in Dharmasthala for a 'truth test' on those who cross-voted.

Vijayendra, who made this 'truth test' proposal on Sunday, had noted that he would speak to the Leader of the Opposition in the Legislative Assembly R Ashoka wuith regard to the matter. Responding to queries by reporters on the same, Ashoka said: "Suresh Kumar has already called, spoken to me and sent a letter too. Sadananda Gowda, Bellad and Pralhad Joshi have also called, said this is not a good practice, and advised against it. So, I will meet Vijayendra in Delhi and speak to him and decide as the seniors tell us."

Earlier on Sunday, Suresh Kumar had publicly objected to Vijayendra's proposal, opining that Dharmasthala should not be dragged into the "low-level cross-voting" in politics.

BYV under pressure?

The cross-voting debacle is said to have increased pressure on Vijayendra, who is already under the scanner for being unable to unite different factions within the saffron party.


Vijayendra

Differences have continued even after the expulsion of Bijapur City MLA Basanagouda Patil Yatnal.

Since Vijayendra took over as the party president in November 2023, the BJP has lost all five by-polls against the ruling Congress — most recently in the bypolls to the Davangere South and Bagalkot Assembly constituencies.

Jolt to NDA

The cross-voting has come as a jolt to the NDA, since 11 MLAs from BJP and JD(S) cross-voted, while one BJP MLA cast an invalid vote

. Vijayendra, whose future as the president may be decided in November, has his back against the wall.

Meet with Nabin today

The BJP state president and R Ashoka, will meet BJP National President Nitin Nabin on Tuesday in Delhi to discuss the cross-voting fiasco.

'No clarity on names'

Ashoka told reporters that though they suspected some MLAs, there was no clarity yet. He felt the MLAs were mostly lured through monetary incentives.

The three-member fact-finding committee formed by the state BJP unit is expected to provide its report by June 25.

12 Indians among..

Qatar, from Page 1

It said security authorities immediately responded to the accident in coordination with emergency response teams in Ras Laffan, implementing approved emergency procedures at the site.

The injured were transferred to medical facilities to receive treatment, while search and response operations at the scene were completed.

Authorities are continuing investigations to determine the exact technical causes of the accident and to establish all circumstances surrounding the incident, it said.

The ministry also said that no leaks were detected as a result of the accident and that there is no threat to public safety or the surrounding environment.

Earlier, QatarEnergy said the incident occurred during the start-up of operations, which resulted in an explosion and fire at the Barzan local gas supply facility on Sunday evening.

STP accident:..

STP, from Page 1

The STP had three inlet channels and gate repair was being taken up at one channel.

If workers had diverted sewage to the other channels, the accident could have been averted, sources said. "The workers have been working at the plant for nearly eight years and seem to have become complacent and ignored safety measures," another source said.

"If they had diverted the sewage, there would have been no risk. Sewage flows with pressure in such big STPs and the risk of workers getting swept away is high. This is why we mandate the use of safety equipment," the source said.

Further, the report is said to have noted that the contract between the BWSSB and the company managing the STP had specific SOPs that had to be followed and use of safety equipment was a mandatory requirement.

"The contractor has to be held responsible for the accident. It was the company's responsibility to ensure that all the safety procedures are followed," the source said.

Based on the report, the BWSSB might terminate the contract and blacklist the contractor, sources said.

Transport corpns seek another bus fare hike in less than 18 months

Cite high diesel prices and staff salaries as reasons

BENGALURU, DHNS:

Bus corporations in Karnataka have sought another fare hike less than 18 months after the last revision, citing rising operational costs due to higher diesel prices and employee wages.

The Karnataka State Road Transport Corporation (KSRTC), North Western Karnataka Road Transport Corporation (NWKRTC) and Kalyana Karnataka Road Transport Corporation (KKRTC) have each sought a 33% fare increase, while the Bengaluru Metropolitan Transport Corporation (BMTC) has sought a steeper 40% hike, well-placed sources told *DH*. The proposal was submitted to the Transport Department secretary about two weeks ago, they added.

According to the proposal, the corporations will incur an additional annual expenditure of Rs 873.64 crore after implementing a 12.5% salary hike for employees from July 1, 2026. A Rs 7.81-per-litre increase in diesel prices will raise the annual fuel bill by another Rs 395 crore.

The RTCs have released Rs 450 crore towards employee arrears but still owe Rs 821 crore. They also contend that the Shakti scheme, which offers free bus travel to women domiciled in Karnataka, has reduced the share of fare-paying male passengers from 48% to 36%, creating a cash-flow crunch for daily operations. Collectively, the corporations face liabilities of Rs 6,000 crore, including provident fund, diesel and gratuity dues and arrears for retired employees.

The RTCs last raised fares by 15% with effect from January 5, 2025. Before that, BMTC had revised fares in 2014 and the other corporations in 2020.

The RTCs last raised fares by 15% with effect from January 5, 2025. DH FILE PHOTO

In October 2025, the Transport Department notified the Karnataka Motor Vehicles (Amendment) Rules, providing for a Public Transport Fare Regulatory Committee modelled on the Karnataka Electricity Regulatory Commission (KERC). The panel, to be headed by a retired additional chief secretary or high court judge with the KSRTC managing director as member-secretary, would review the RTCs' financial health and recommend periodic fare revisions.

However, the government deferred constituting the committee, which was expected by the end of 2025, because of the pending Bengaluru civic polls, the sources said.

Then Transport Minister Ramalinga Reddy had said fare revisions would take place every two years and be capped at 2-5% to minimise the burden on passengers.

Strike barred for six months

The government has issued a fresh notification declaring bus operations an essential service and prohibiting strike by RTC staff from July 1 to Dec 31, 2026, under Sec 3(1) of Karnataka Essential Services Maintenance (Amendment) Act, 2025.

The unions are demanding Rs 1,785 crore in arrears for 38 months and 25% pay hike from Jan 1, 2024. The government has agreed to pay Rs 1,271.92 crore in arrears only for 26 months, refusing to pay Rs 513.08 crore for 2020 due to pandemic. It announced a 12.5% pay hike from Apr 1, 2025, to Mar 31, 2029.

Committee general secretary Vijaya Bhaskar D A called the notification as "routine", noting they had paused the strike because of court order. "We'll answer it legally," he said.

TN's proposal for tribunal on Mekedatu irks farmers

'CWDT, SC have ruled out new project for 15 yrs'

E T B SIVAPRIYAN
CHENNAI, DHNS

Tamil Nadu's proposal to the Union government seeking the formation of a new tribunal to resolve the dispute over Karnataka's plan to build a reservoir across the River Cauvery at Mekedatu has met with severe opposition from farmers in the fertile Cauvery Delta region.

Despite intense objections from farmers' associations and opposition parties, the TVK government on Monday asserted on the floor of the Legislative Assembly that a new tribunal remains the "only solution," declaring that the state has lost all faith in the Cauvery Water Management Authority (CWMA).

Public Works Minister Aadhav Arjuna, who has emerged as a key spokesperson for the new administration, openly accused the CWMA of biased functioning.

"Tamil Nadu has lost confidence in the functioning of the CWMA. We believe that a new tribunal is the only option going forward to resolve the dispute between Tamil Nadu and Karnataka," Arjuna told the House.

Defending its stance, the government argued that since the Mekedatu dam is an entirely fresh dispute, it is legally sound to seek the constitution of a new arbitration body.

The government further said that since the Mekedatu is a new dispute, it was only right to seek the constitution of a new tribunal to solve the matters – the decision in this regard was taken by the previous DMK government and conveyed to the Union Government through an official letter in March.

However, the issue was kept under wraps till June 19, when Chief Minister C Joseph Vijay agreed to include the demand for the constitution of a tribunal in the resolution on Mekedatu as a follow-up to the letter.

Tamil Nadu Cauvery Farmers' Association President P R Pandian told *DH* that there is no need for a new arbitration panel for the Mekedatu issue, as it would only further complicate matters between both states.

He argued that both the Cauvery Water Disputes Tribunal (CWDT) and the Supreme Court have clarified that no new project can be taken up in the Cauvery basin for 15 years.

"The Supreme Court settled the Cauvery River water allocation issue for 15 years in its 2018 verdict. No construction can take place without the explicit concurrence of the lower riparian states," Pandian said.

"When the legal realities are already this clear, why did the DMK government propose a new tribunal and keep it a secret? Which legal experts did they consult, and why were the stakeholders or opposition parties never taken into confidence?"

He accused the DMK of "misusing" the Assembly for the mistakes it committed during its 2021-2026 rule. "Any tribunal would only open Pandora's Box. The government should withdraw its demand for a tribunal on Mekedatu," he added.

PMK chief Anbumani Ramadoss spoke along similar lines, warning that pushing for an entirely new tribunal could have disastrous long-term consequences for local farmers.

"When the standing mandates of both the CWDT and the Supreme Court are already weighted in favour of Tamil Nadu, what is the utility of demanding a separate tribunal? To be perfectly frank, setting up a fresh tribunal has historically been Karnataka's demand to bypass current restrictions. The new government must not play right into Karnataka's hands," Ramadoss cautioned.

In response, Minister Arjuna maintained that senior legal experts had strongly advised the state to establish an independent arbitration body to evaluate the Mekedatu dispute separately.

"If the Supreme Court permits the creation of a new arbitration panel, it gives Tamil Nadu the necessary time and a distinct legal avenue to block Karnataka's construction plans and preserve our farmers' lifelines," the minister added.

15 killed in fire at ...

Fire, From Page 1

'Let me reach my son': Parents plead, students leap to escape UP fire, Page 7

"Fifteen people were brought dead. The bodies will be sent to the morgue for autopsy after completing the inquest procedure," he said.

Five had minor injuries and were admitted. "Due to two children jumping, they suffered back injuries, so they are also being treated after CT scans and other procedures," the official said. Later in the day, the police said they arrested three persons in connection with the incident. The accused were joint owners of the building.

It has been alleged that the building was approved as a residential one but was illegally being used for commercial purposes.

Prime minister Narendra Modi expressed anguish over the deaths and announced an ex-ratia of Rs 2 lakh each to the next of kin of the deceased and Rs 50,000 for the injured.

UP Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath, who was addressing a public meeting in Aligarh when the incident happened, cut short his speech and rushed to Lucknow. He said the state police chief and the additional principal secretary (home) had been directed to reach the spot and monitor the relief and rescue operations. In the evening, he visited the site of the fire tragedy and inspected the affected building. Later, he met injured victims at King George's Medical University (KGMU), assuring strict action against those found responsible.

(With PTI inputs)

Family members and relatives of the victims of a fire that broke out in a three-storey commercial building wait outside the post-mortem house in Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh, Monday. PTI PHOTO

CWMA to review Cauvery water situation today

NEW DELHI, DHNS

Amid a shortfall in monsoon rainfall across the Cauvery basin, the Cauvery Water Management Authority (CWMA) is scheduled to meet today to assess the prevailing water situation, including reservoir storage levels, inflows into the Cauvery river system, and agricultural activities in the basin states.

During the meeting, Tamil Nadu is expected to press for the release of the remaining portion of its June allocation of 9.19 thousand million cubic feet (tmcft) of water from Karnataka reservoirs.

According to sources, Karnataka has released only about 2 tmcft so far this month. The state is likely to express its inability to release additional water, citing poor rainfall and inadequate inflows into its reservoirs, sources said.

The issue of the release of water from Karnataka was also raised during the meeting of the Cauvery Water Regulation Committee (CWRC) held in New Delhi last week.

Tamil Nadu had complained that Karnataka was not releasing the stipulated June quota, while Karnataka cited poor inflow of its reservoirs.

After reviewing the storage position in the basin, the CWRC had advised both States to conserve available water and accord priority to drinking water needs.

The committee also urged Karnataka and Tamil Nadu to exercise caution in allocating areas for paddy cultivation, warning that water availability could become more critical during the latter half of the southwest monsoon season in August and September.

Officials in Karnataka said rainfall in the Cauvery catchment area has been significantly below normal, resulting in poor inflows into reservoirs.

According to them, the four major reservoirs in the state are currently receiving only around 1,000 cusecs of water per day, while outflows remain limited due to low storage levels.

Meanwhile, Tamil Nadu is also expected to raise the issue of constituting a tribunal to examine Karnataka's proposed Mekedatu balancing reservoir project during the CWMA meeting.

Sowing covers just 30% of target across state

Agriculture, from Page 1

Agriculture Department officials and scientists have advised farmers to provide protective irrigation, conserve soil moisture and avoid chemical fertilisers in dry soil.

Sowing of green gram, soybean, black gram and maize in Dharwad district has crossed 80% of the targeted 2.82 lakh hectares, but saplings are drying up due to lack of rain. In Gadag district, where sowing has reached 65%, protecting crops has become a challenge. Farmers in Belagavi have been advised to wait for rains before resuming sowing.

Incidents of farmers destroying their crops are also being reported. In Haveri district's Hangal, farmers Basayya Hiremath and Shankargouda Patil uprooted maize saplings. Basavaraj Iappanavar from Kundgol taluk said villagers have been performing pujas praying for rain, while Atmanand Madiwal from Uppinabetageri in Dharwad district said his crops can survive only for a few more days without rainfall.

"Sowing has been higher in north-interior Karnataka compared to the southern parts of the state, and scanty rainfall has already damaged crops. At least 50% of the crops can still be saved if good rainfall is received within a week. Otherwise, farmers may have to opt for second sowing," said R H Patil, nodal scientist of the Micro Watershed-level Agromet Advisory Services project at University of Agricultural Sciences, Dharwad. He added that the monsoon is likely to revive from June 24.

Rainfall deficit across 13 districts of north-interior Karnataka ranged between 78% and 99% in the week ending June 21, according to the Karnataka State Natural Disaster Monitoring Centre. The agency has also predicted a below-normal monsoon this year.

"In case the dry situation continues till this month-end, an advisory on alternative crops and other measures would be issued," said Agriculture Department Joint Director (Dharwad) Manjunath Antaravalli.

A weak monsoon has also disrupted sowing in Kalaburagi and Raichur districts, where progress stands at 12.86% and 30% respectively. Agriculture Department officials have advised farmers to defer sowing. Farmer leader Sharanabasappa Mamashetty has urged the government to declare the district drought-hit and initiate relief measures.

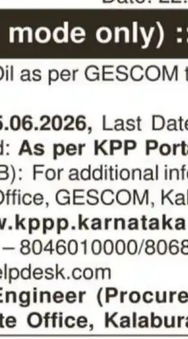
Mysuru district has recorded only 41% sowing, with crops beginning to wilt. The standing crops can still be saved if rains arrive now, said Agriculture Department Joint Director (Mysuru) K H Ravi.

A drought-like situation is emerging in the plateau region of Chikkamagaluru. While many farmers are still awaiting rainfall to begin sowing, seeds already sown are struggling to germinate. Farmers say sesame, cotton and tur dal cannot be sown at this stage, as delayed harvesting would disrupt the sowing schedule for ragi and jowar.

Davangere district has recorded only 6% sowing progress, down from 25% in the same period last year, while Shivamogga stands at 12%. Agriculture Department Joint Director (Davangere) Ziaullah Khan said, "If there is no rainfall for about a week, farmers may not resume maize sowing activities. They may switch to crops which need less water and yield may also get affected."

(With inputs from Gayathri V Raj in Mysuru, Naina J A in Mangaluru, Nrupathunga S K in Davangere, Raju Gavali in Belagavi and Vittal Shastri in Kalaburagi)

TOP 10 DISTRICTS WITH HIGH TARGET AND LOW SOWING



(as on June 20) (Area in lakh hectare)

District	Target 2026	Achieved 2026	Achieved 2025
Kalaburagi	8.00	0.82	2.42
Vijaypur	4.30	0.60	1.16
Bidar	3.96	0.10	2.77
Belagavi	3.16	1.84	2.36
Chitradurga	3.10	0.20	0.74
Tumakuru	2.87	0.09	0.21
Mysuru	2.77	1.49	1.77
Haveri	2.70	2.34	2.10
Dharwad	2.61	1.70	2.18
Gadag	2.61	1.70	2.16
Total	**59.68**	**17.35**	**25.09**

Source: Agriculture Department Compiled by Pavan Kumar H

Govt 's AI-powered portal to host pvt sector jobs

Jobs, from Page 1

"This would be more than what existing job portals like naukri.com offer as we propose to integrate skill development and other facilitations into it," a CMO official said.

Every job seeker will have a digital profile on the portal, which will also offer a resume-builder, AI-based job recommendations, skill assessment, career progression monitoring and personalised counselling. All job seekers will have to undergo Aadhaar-based authentication.

Further, a full-fledged Learning Management System (LMS) will be integrated with the portal. This will come with online/hybrid learning, live webinars, mock interviews, skill badges, AI-driven skill-gap analysis and so on. "This ensures that candidates can continuously upskill and become industry-ready," the note states.

For educational institutions, the platform will offer features including workforce demand forecasting and guidance to prepare mass recruitment drives.

The portal will also maintain a centralised database of students, job seekers, Yuva Nidhi beneficiaries, skilled workforce, apprentices and alumni of government skill programmes.

"This database will create a 'Single Skill Identity' for every beneficiary, enabling tracking of training, certification, employment, wage progression and career growth throughout their lifecycle," the note states.

Starmer resigns as PM, Burnham likely successor

Starmer, From Page 1

But his premiership quickly became characterised by domestic policy U-turns, deep public unpopularity, ministerial resignations and a scandal over his fated decision to appoint a known associate of late US sex offender Jeffrey Epstein as the UK's ambassador to Washington.

His domestic authority all-but evaporated after Labour endured a drubbing in local and regional elections in May, with clamour growing for Burnham to replace him.

Labour lawmakers ultimately decided Starmer is incapable of fighting off the rise of the hard-right anti-immigration Reform UK party, which leads national opinion polls.

He had vowed to fight any leadership challenge, but several senior ministers reportedly told him the game was up after Burnham won a parliamentary by-election last week, allowing him to run for leader.

During his resignation speech, Starmer said he accepted "with good grace" the view of Labour lawmakers that he should not lead them into the next general election, expected in 2029.

"Every decision I have taken has been about putting the country I love first. That is why I will resign as leader of the Labour Party," he added, as senior ministerial colleagues looked on. Energy minister Ed Miliband praised Starmer's "great dignity", while EU chief Ursula von der Leyen said he had made European and Ukrainian security "stronger".

Burnham called for "orderly and responsible" transition, writing on X: "I will put myself forward as part of this process." Quickly afterwards, former health secretary Streeting, who previously said he would join a leadership race, instead suggested Burnham could become leader without any formal contest. Streeting said he had spoken to Burnham in recent days and was convinced he "can win the fight of our lives against the forces of nationalism".

Burnham would likely face questions about the extent of his mandate, with Reform leader Nigel Farage swiftly calling for a snap general election.

Burnham, from the so-called soft-left wing of Labour, defied national trends by easily beating the hard-right, populist Reform UK party's candidate in Makerfield.

But he has provided little detail about his plans for government if he wins power, causing concern among some MPs.

UK media say he intends to replace finance minister Rachel Reeves, while retaining interior minister Shabana Mahmood.

GULBARGA ELECTRICITY SUPPLY COMPANY LIMITED
(Wholly owned government of Karnataka undertaking)
CIN Number: U04010KA2002SGC030436

No. GESCOM/SEE (Procurement)/EE/AEE/26-27/27584-89 Date: 22.06.2026

:: TENDER NOTIFICATION (KPP portal mode only) ::

PC-1494: Manufacture and supply of EHV Grade Transformer Oil as per GESCOM technical specification (Tender Amount: **Rs. 942.95 Lakhs)**
Dates: Bid documents available at KPP Portal: on or after **25.06.2026,** Last Date for Bid submission, Opening of Technical Bid and opening of price Bid: **As per KPP Portal.**
Bidder Qualifying Requirements: As per tender documents (IFB): For additional information Contact: Superintending Engineer El., Procurement, Corporate Office, GESCOM, Kalaburagi-585102. Mobile: 94484 99997. Web Site Address: **www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in.** For information about the KPP portal, contact the helpline at +91 – 8046010000/8068948777/ 9240214000/ 9240214001or e-mail address:support@eprochelpdesk.com

Sd/- Superintending Engineer (Procurement),
DIPR/Kalaburagi/240/KSMC&A/2026-27 **GESCOM, Corporate Office, Kalaburagi**

The Raichur and Koppal District Central Cooperative Bank Ltd

Ref: RDCCB/2026-27/IND0005/ Date:20.06.2026

e-Procurement Tender Notice

The Raichur and Koppal District Central Co-Operative Bank Ltd., Raichur invites e-Tender referenceno: RDCCB/2026-27/IND0005 "Supply Installation and open Commissioning of Computer Hardware at Head Office In Raichur and Selected Branches across Raichur and Koppal District." Tender Schedule and details can be obtained from KPPPortal **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in**

Sd/-
Chief Executive Officer
R K D C C BANK Ltd., Raichur.

Fatal bike taxi accident throws focus on lack of safety measures

Commuters allege poorly maintained bikes, helmets

ASRA MAVAD
BENGALURU, DHNS

As bike taxis continue to be the most sought-after mode of transport in the city, mainly for their affordability and efficiency, bike taxi users have reported increased instances of being assigned rides on poorly maintained bikes. Safety gear has also emerged as a major issue.

The safety concerns have come into focus after a 54-year-old school teacher died recently allegedly falling off a bike taxi and sustaining deep injuries to her nose and forehead. Police officials noted that both the rider and pillion were wearing half helmets.

Commuters *DH* spoke to reported being assigned bikes and scooters with worn-out tyres, damaged mirrors and faulty lights and poorly maintained helmets. "Rarely is the rider provided a helmet that fully covers the head. They usually offer half helmets," said Sanjana Kothari, 23.

Rented and poorly maintained bikes (mostly second hand) remain another concern. "It's very common to see drivers using rented bikes, especially the electric ones. When I am assigned such bikes, the riders won't even have a helmet on, as this is just their part-time gig. These electric bikes, plus some old bikes, move really slowly," said Nayana, an RT Nagar resident.

The traffic police are unable to zero in on faulty bike taxis due to the lack of any differentiating factor.
DH FILE PHOTO FOR REPRESENTATION

The traffic police are unable to zero in on faulty bike taxis due to the lack of any differentiating factor. "It's almost impossible to tell which is a bike taxi and which isn't since there is no yellow board or any differentiating marker. But irrespective of whether it is a bike taxi or not, half helmets are unsafe," said Gopal M Byakod, Deputy Commissioner of Police (Traffic South).

Insurance coverage for commuters

Speaking to DH, a Rapido spokesperson shared that they had reached out to the family of the deceased to offer support and assist them with the applicable insurance claim process.

"All bike rides on the Rapido platform are covered by personal accident insurance as per our policy terms. Information related to insurance coverage and claims is readily available to customers, and dedicated support channels are in place to assist with any claim-related queries," stated the spokesperson.

As per Rapido's policy, policy coverage for bike taxis covers upto Rs 5 lakh for personal accident/accidental death, up to Rs 1 lakh for medical expenses for hospitalisation and up to Rs 3,000 for OPD treatment.

"As per our policy, every bike captain is required to carry and provide an ISI-certified helmet for passenger use before the ride begins," added the spokesperson.

Uber too follows a similar policy.

"All bike taxi drivers on the Uber app are covered by accident insurance. Our policies require drivers to wear a helmet and offer one to riders before every trip. We also use in-app reminders to encourage helmet use and promote safer riding behaviour," said an Uber spokesperson. At random, Uber also asks riders to share 'helmet selfies'. Ola declined comment.

Malabar Gold & Diamonds opens their 25th showroom in RT Nagar, Bengaluru

Malabar Gold & Diamonds has inaugurated their new showroom in RT Nagar, Bengaluru, further expanding its presence in the city. The launch marks the jewellery retailer's 25th showroom in Bengaluru and its 49th showroom across Karnataka and Goa. With contemporary interiors, organised product displays, and personalised service, the showroom offers a premium retail experience to customers.

The showroom was inaugurated by actress Srinidhi Shetty in the presence of Filsor Babu, Regional Head – Karnataka, members of the management team, customers, invited guests, and other dignitaries. To mark the opening, the company is offering up to 30% off on making charges for gold, uncut and gemstone jewellery, along with up to 30% off on diamond value. Customers can also avail of a jewellery exchange programme with zero deduction, subject to terms and conditions.

The showroom also features a wide range of gold, diamond, platinum, gemstone and silver jewellery, catering to bridal, festive, gifting and everyday wear requirements.

Commenting on the launch, M P Ahammad,Chairman, Malabar Group, said Bengaluru continues to be one of the company's most important markets and the new showroom reflects its commitment to bringing quality products, wider collections and trusted service closer to customers.

Actress Srinidhi Shetty inaugurates the RT Nagar store

About Malabar Gold & Diamonds

Established in 1993, Malabar Gold & Diamonds is the flagship company of the Malabar Group. With an annual turnover of $9.41 billion, it is among the world's leading jewellery retailers, operating over 445 showrooms across 14 countries. The company offers a wide range of jewellery collections and is known for its focus on quality, craftsmanship, transparency and customer-centric services. Malabar Gold & Diamonds also undertakes various social responsibility initiatives across areas such as healthcare, education, environmental sustainability and women's empowerment.

Curated by DH Brandspot

Reels on Nandini milk: High Court refuses to stay case against doctor

BENGALURU, DHNS

The High Court on Monday declined to stay further proceedings in a case registered against a Bengaluru doctor, for allegedly making and sharing Instagram reels about Nandini strawberry milk being spurious.

The petitioner Dr Sharanya Padma moved the high court challenging the FIR registered by the Malleswaram police under BNS section 353(1) (b).

As the matter came up for hearing, the counsel for the petitioner prayed for an interim order on the proceedings stating that the Instagram reel was only about the strawberry flavour and not per se about the Nandini milk in the market. It was also submitted that the petitioner further apologised for the reels.

At this stage, Justice M Nagaprasanna posed a series of questions to the advocate for the petitioner.

"You cannot generate panic amongst the public like this saying milk is spurious and strawberry flavour is not good. Don't drink if it is not good. Why do you have to do all this? Has anyone sent you for a test? Simply at the drop of the hat, you make statements and create problems in society. Instagram is not meant for that. Have you communicated to the government about this?" the court orally asked.

The court adjourned the hearing while ordering notice to the police as well as R Padmavati, KMF Director and complainant in the case while declining to interfere in the ongoing investigation.

Supreme Court declines urgent intervention in Hanuman Janmabhoomi dispute

NEW DELHI, DHNS

The Supreme Court on Monday refused to entertain an urgent oral mention seeking intervention in the contentious Hanuman Janmabhoomi dispute, saying that the matter should be handled by the Karnataka High Court, which had reserved and pronounced its judgment but later scheduled it for rehearing.

A bench of Justices B V Nagarathna and Joymalya Bagchi was told by the counsel that the Karnataka High Court had reserved its judgment in the case, pronounced it in open court, and then unexpectedly listed the matter for hearing again the following day.

"The judgment was reserved and pronounced in the open court. After pronouncement, the matter is suddenly kept tomorrow for rehearing," the petitioner's counsel submitted.

Justice Nagarathna, however, observed that the Karnataka High Court follows a well-known procedure called "being spoken to", under which the court may clarify, correct, or address issues arising from a judgment.

"Let the high court deal with it," the bench remarked.

The petitioner argued that once a judgment is pronounced and signed, the court ordinarily becomes functus officio — meaning it ceases to have jurisdiction over the matter except in circumstances recognised by law.

The court, however, refused to intervene, while allowing the Karnataka High Court to resolve the procedural aspects, in a decision that comes as a significant development in the multi-state religious row that has drawn attention across the country.

The dispute, which erupted in 2021, revolves around competing claims over the birthplace of Lord Hanuman.

The Tirumala Tirupati Devasthanams (TTD) in Andhra Pradesh asserts that Tirumala's Anjanadri Hill is the sacred site. A committee constituted by TTD, comprising scholars and researchers, examined Puranic literature, archaeological evidence, inscriptions and historical sources before concluding that Anjanadri in Tirumala is Hanuman's birthplace.

In contrast, the Sri Hanumad Janmabhoomi Teertha Kshetra Trust in Karnataka claims that Anjanadri Hill near the UNESCO World Heritage site of Hampi is the actual birthplace.

The Trust's panel of Vedic scholars, historians and scientists relied on references in ancient texts such as the Skanda Purana, Varaha Purana and Brahmanda Purana to support its assertion.

A third claim has been advanced by the Ramachandrapura Mutt in Karnataka, which maintains that Gokarna, in the state's coastal region, is the true birthplace of the deity.

Continue UG talent scheme for more years: CM to higher education dept

BENGALURU, DHNS

The Scholars for Outstanding Undergraduate Talent (SCOUT) programme, wherein students handpicked from select state-run universities are given the opportunity to travel to the United Kingdom for a two-week long learning experience at various varsities in that country, is slated to end next year.

However, Chief Minister D K Shivakumar instructed officials in the higher education department to take steps to ensure the programme continues for a few more years.

Interacting the 29 students chosen from six universities – University of Mysore, Karnatak University, Dharwad, Bengaluru Dr B R Ambedkar School of Economics, Davangere University, Akkamahadevi Women's University and Bidar University – for SCOUT programme this year, Shivakumar said, "You will be our ambassadors in UK. Travelling abroad is a wonderful experience and you will learn many things. Make sure you imbibe leadership qualities".

Shivakumar recalled his 22-day-long trip to Vienna in 1987, when he was selected for the World Youth Exchange Programme.

"Don't restrict such programmes to three years," the CM told department officials.

SCOUTing for talent

SCOUT is the fruit of a collaborative effort between the department of higher education and British Council. In 2025, no student went to UK through the SCOUT programme since no British university came forward to sponsor the trip.

However, after then Higher Education Minister Dr M C Sudhakar requested the British Council, the programme resumed in 2026. Although 31 students were initially selected, trouble with passports compelled two students to opt out. The remaining 29 students, slated to leave for UK on June 27, are headed to University of Wolverhampton.

The programme is a fully funded two-week-long immersive learning experience wherein students learn about United Nations sustainable development goals, sustainability and climate, gender, urban planning and communication skills.

Students with a strong academic record from the six universities were chosen by the Karnataka State Higher Education Council.

Two-wheelers trapped beneath the parking shed near KSRTC bus stand in Koratagere town of Tumakuru district.

Parking lot shelter collapses; 80 bikes damaged

KORATAGERE (TUMAKURU DISTRICT), DHNS: More than 80 two-wheelers were damaged after the shelter of a parking lot collapsed due to heavy rain and gusty winds in Koratagere of Tumakuru district on Monday evening.

Bikes and scooters were parked in large numbers in the parking area behind KSRTC bus stand in Koratagere town, which received heavy rains towards evening.

Local residents said that shelter of the parking area was dilapidated and it came crashing down due to heavy winds. However, a tragedy was averted since there were no people at the parking shelter at the time of the incident.

CORRIGENDUM NO. 01 AGAINST TENDER NOTICE NO. CON/2026/APR/04 DATED: 30-04-2026

Corrigendum- 01 for **Tender No. CE-CON-FT-EPC-2026-05** has been published. For details please visit **www.ireps.gov.in**

Chief Engineer/CON/Lumding Project, Maligaon
NORTHEAST FRONTIER RAILWAY
(Construction Organisation)
Serving Customers With A Smile

JOB VACANCY (ESM)
Retd Def Officer Below 64, for Canteen Mgt.,
gpccellkksa@gmail.com, www.gpcscblr.co.in
Loc of Emp : GPEC Mysore
Last Dt of Application : 12 July 2026

Metro Railway, Kolkata
Tender Notice for e-tendering is invited by Principal Chief Engineer, Metro Railway, Kolkata for and on behalf of the President of India for the following work: **Name of work:** Zonal Contract for upkeep of structures in via-duct, Overhead structures, Stations & allied Service Buildings, Fire Hydrants, Pipe line works of Metro Railway, Kolkata from Majerhat (km 8/8) to Joka (km -2/0) including Joka Depot and Car shed upto June 2028. **Approx Cost of Work:** ₹ 1,26,25,091.48, **Earnest Money:** ₹ 2,52,500/- **Completion Period:** Twenty Four (24) Months, **Date and Time of Closing:** 17.07.2026 at 12:00 hrs. The Tender Document and other details can be obtained from the website **www.ireps.gov.in.** Amendments/ Corrigendum, if any, would be hosted only on the website. **Abridged e-Tender Notice No.: Civil-2583-2026 (Open)**
Follow us at: /metrorailwaykol /metrorailkolkata

सत्यमेव जयते
No.46/2/2026-ADMIN-I
Government of India
Ministry of New & Renewable Energy
Atal Akshaya Urja Bhawan (AAUB),
Opp. CGO Complex, Lodhi Road, New Delhi-110003
Applications are invited for filling up the post of 03 (three) Scientists D and 03 (three) Scientists C in the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy in the Level 12 (Rs. 78,800 - 2,09,200/-) and Level 11 (Rs. 67,700 - 2,08,700/-), respectively, of the 7th CPC pay matrix on deputation/short-term contract basis. Full details of the vacancy circular are available on Ministry of New and Renewable website www.mnre.gov.in.
The last day for receipt of applications in prescribed format at the address mentioned above is 30 days from the date of publication of this advertisement in the Employment News.
Sd/-
Under Secretary to the Govt. of India
CBC 28101/11/0001/2627

ಕೇಂದ್ರೀಯ ವಿದ್ಯಾಲಯ ಭಾ.ವಿ.ಸಂ. ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು–560012
KENDRIYA VIDYALAYA
INDIAN INSTITUTE OF SCIENCE, BENGALURU–560012
Email- principal.kviisc@gmail.com,
Website: https://iiscbangalore.kvs.ac.in Ph: 080-23371316
WALK-IN-INTERVIEW FOR TEACHERS
A Walk–in-Interview will be conducted on 27.06.2026 (Saturday) from 9.00 a.m to 11.30 a.m. for the following posts on contractual basis-
1. PGTs (Physics, Maths)
2. TGTs (English, Sanskrit, Science, Maths)
3. Primary Teachers
4. Art Coach
5. Yoga Instructor
6. ATL Instructor
NOTE : Details of eligibility, educational qualification, remuneration and Interview Date and Time are put up in the School **Website: https://iiscbangalore.kvs.ac.in.** Interested eligible candidates report to Vidyalaya as per schedule given in the website along with duly filled Biodata form with all original documents / certificates and one set of self-attested xerox copies of all documents.
No TA/DA will be paid for attending Interview.
PRINCIPAL

सत्यमेव जयते
National Financial Reporting Authority
7th-8th Floor, Hindustan Times House, 18-20 K.G. Marg, New Delhi-110001
The National Financial Reporting Authority (NFRA), vide Vacancy Circular dated 5th June 2026, invites applications from dynamic and motivated Chartered Accountants (CAs), Cost Accountants (CMA), Legal professionals and IT professionals for engagement as Young Professionals, purely on contract basis, initially for 02 (Two) years which may be extended by one year at a time but up to a maximum total tenure of five (05) years i.e. 2+1+1+1 years. The initial engagement shall be at a consolidated remuneration of Rs 70,000/- per month. The likely vacancies are as under:
1. Young Professional (CA/CMA) - Four (04)
2. Young Professional (Legal) - Four (04)
3. Young Professional (IT) - Web Designer / Ui/UX Designer - One (01)
The detailed Vacancy Circular, including eligibility criteria, terms and conditions, and application format, is available at NFRA website on the link: **https://nfra.gov.in/young-professionals/.** Interested and eligible candidates may submit their applications in the prescribed format on or before the last date specified in the Vacancy Circular available at NFRA website.
CBC 07122/11/0001/2627

Skill India कौशल भारत-कुशल भारत
कौशल विकास और उद्यमशीलता मंत्रालय
MINISTRY OF SKILL DEVELOPMENT & ENTREPRENEURSHIP
GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
सत्यमेव जयते
PMKVY PRADHAN MANTRI KAUSHAL VIKAS YOJANA
INVITING PROPOSALS FOR SELECTION OF PROJECT IMPLEMENTING AGENCIES (PIAs) FOR TRAINING OF MULTI-SKILLED CAREGIVERS
Ministry of Skill Development & Entrepreneurship invites proposals from eligible institutions and organizations for the implementation of a large-scale skilling initiative aimed at training Multi-Skilled Caregivers under the Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana (PMKVY).
Expected Outcomes
- Training and certification of Multi-Skilled Caregivers across identified job roles.
- Practical exposure through On-the-Job Training (OJT).
- Employability Promotion through placement, apprenticeship, self-employment, or livelihood linkages in domestic and international markets.
- Enhanced participation of women and candidates from underserved, rural, semi-urban, aspirational districts, and North-Eastern regions.
- Post-placement tracking for measuring employment outcomes for specific duration.

Interested eligible institutions may submit their proposals through the link:
www.skillindiadigital.gov.in
Last date for proposal submission: 28/06/2026
CBC 63101/11/0004/2627

S. E. RAILWAY – TENDER
Divisional Railway Manager(Engg)/Adra invites e-tenders for the following works as mentioned hereunder: **Sl. No.; E-Tender Notice No.; Description of works & Tender value** respectively: **(1); E-DRM-Engg-ADRA-48-26, Dtd.19.06.2026;** Proposal for side drain and Cess repair under the jurisdiction of DEN/East/Adra; ₹ 3,87,02,600.99; **(2); E-DRM-Engg-ADRA-49-26, Dtd.19.06.2026;** Construction of New FOB at Anara Station from UP Side to connect at platform in Adra Division; ₹ 5,32,47,358.81; **(3); E-DRM-Engg-ADRA-50-26, Dtd. 19.06.2026;** (1)Construction of PWI Depot under the jurisdiction of DEN/North/Adra (2) Construction of Gang tool room under DEN/North/Adra; ₹ 4,47,37,691.60; **(4); E-DRM-Engg-ADRA-51-26, Dtd.19.06.2026;** (1) Proposal of Cess repair under the jurisdiction of DEN/North/Adra (2) Strengthening of Major bridge approach 89UP and 89DN between Kotshila-Bokaro Steel City Section in Adra Division; ₹ 2,87,08,914.92; **(5); E-DRM-Engg-ADRA-52-26, Dtd.19.06.2026;** Cess Repair under the jurisdiction of DEN/Central/Adra in Adra Division; ₹ 2,42,55,798.20; **(6); E-DRM-Engg-ADRA-53-26, Dtd.19.06.2026;** Improvement of drainage system at KA-104, BR-106 & BR-109 in between Adra-Midnapur section; ₹ 1,39,23,595.55; **(7); E-DRM-Engg-ADRA-47-26, Dtd.19.06.2026;** Civil engineering work in connection with the work of interlocking of 4 nos. of level crossing gates (BR-67, BR-101, BR-10 & BR-58) in the section of SSE/Sig/BQA in Adra division; ₹ 1,80,87,082.24; **The closing date and time of e-tenders is on** 16.07.2026 at 15.00 hrs. (for Sl. No 1 to 6) & 10.07.2026 at 15.00 hrs. (for Sl. No 7). Details of above e-tenders may please be seen at website **www.ireps.gov.in.** **(PR-367)**

इसरो इंडिया
Government of India
Department of Space
Indian Space Research Organisation
SATISH DHAWAN SPACE CENTRE SHAR
SRIHARIKOTA – 524 124,
TIRUPATI DT. (A.P)
Advertisement No. SDSC SHAR/RMT/02/2026 Dated 16.06.2026
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CROP BLUES: Delayed monsoon threatens sowing in parched Parner; El Nino shadow on fields

Tears in Maha onion belt: Farmers reel as rains falter

FROM THE GROUND

MRITYUNJAY BOSE
PARNER (AHILYANAGAR), DHNS

Dry fields in Parner, one of Maharashtra's key onion-growing regions, where farmers fear a difficult season ahead. DH PHOTO/MRITYUNJAY BOSE

Parched fields, receding water levels and anxious farmers have become the defining features of Parner taluk in Ahilyanagar district, one of Maharashtra's prominent onion-growing belts, as an unusually delayed monsoon threatens the upcoming sowing season.

The annual activity associated with onion cultivation is conspicuously absent across large parts of the taluk.

Fields lie dry, wells are running low, and farmers have been unable to begin nursery preparation and transplantation of onion seedlings due to the lack of rain.

They are, in fact, looking skywards.

The uncertainty has cast a shadow over the region's agricultural economy, raising concerns over a possible decline in acreage and production if the monsoon does not revive soon.

For BN Fand-Patil of Sarola Adwai village and Bajirao Gagare of Mandave Khurd village, the wait for rain has become increasingly stressful.

"Drought and erratic weather have become an inseparable part of farmers' lives in Parner. If it does not rain in the next 10 to 15 days, things will become very difficult," said Fand-Patil.

LOOMING CRISIS

- Onion sowing absent across large parts of Parner
- Nursery prep and transplantation halted in the absence of rain
- Crisis has implications beyond Parner as Maharashtra's onion supplies and prices at risk
- Experts say cold storage, processing and export policy needed

"We all know that El Niño is creating havoc. However, we are not in a position to tackle another drought."

Gagare said farmers were pinning their hopes on an early revival of the southwest monsoon.

"Farmers here work hard despite adverse conditions. Onion has become the backbone of the local economy, and Parner is known across the country for onion cultivation," he said.

The unfolding crisis has implications beyond Parner. Maharashtra is India's largest onion-producing state; any disruption in sowing could affect supplies and prices later in the year. "If rains remain deficient and sowing is affected, onion prices could rise sharply during the Dussehra and Diwali season. Farmers are already under distress, and consumers may also end up bearing the burden," Fand-Patil warned.

The severity of the water shortage is evident in many villages across the taluk.

"June is ending and there has been virtually no rain. Fields are dry. We are dependent on tanker water for drinking and household needs. Under such conditions, how can farmers sustain cultivation?" asked Gagare.

Agriculture expert, farmer and writer Vijay Gaikwad said the current situation reflects a larger challenge confronting onion growers due to changing weather patterns.

"The onion currently available in the market has a poor shelf life because much of it was harvested during April and May. While the Centre's second advance estimates suggest production may remain broadly similar to last year, panic selling and supply uncertainties continue to trigger sharp price fluctuations," he said.

Calling for urgent intervention, Gaikwad said the government should activate emergency cold-storage support, promote processing of vulnerable onion stocks into powder, flakes and paste, and provide a stable export policy.

"Procurement without processing is merely deferred disposal. A policy response that moves slower than the spoilage rate means farmers once again bear the full cost of a crisis they did not create," he said.

2% sowing in Marathwada over delayed rains

CHHATRAPATI SAMBHAJINAGAR, PTI: Due to delayed south-west monsoon, merely 1.07 lakh hectares of agricultural land has been sown across eight districts of the Marathwada region in Maharashtra as of June 18 compared with 10.77 lakh hectares during the same period last year, according to a report.

Nearly 49.72 lakh hectares (average) of land was sown in the past five years in the central Maharashtra region. Last year till June 18, 10.77 lakh hectares of agricultural land was sown, while this year, the figure was merely 1.07 lakh hectares. So, this year's sowing figure was merely 2% compared to the same day last year, the report pointed out.

The semi-arid region consists of Chhatrapati Sambhajinagar, Jalna, Beed, Latur, Dharashiv, Parbhani, Hingoli and Nanded districts.

Among districts, Beed reported the highest sowing progress with 68,572 hectares covered out of 1.07 lakh hectares. Other districts continued to lag substantially behind historical levels.

Centre says sufficient seeds available for kharif season

AJITH ATHRADY
NEW DELHI, DHNS

STEADY SUPPLY

- Govt says supply exceeds demand; availability at 192 lakh quintals against 172 lakh quintals
- Flags distribution gaps; shortfalls in Jharkhand, Tamil Nadu buffer near zero
- Surpluses in Karnataka, Telangana, AP
- Centres issues advisory to all states

The country has sufficient seeds for the ongoing kharif season, with total availability at 192 lakh quintals against a requirement of 172 lakh quintals, the Union Ministry of Agriculture said. However, it flagged concerns over uneven distribution and local shortages in some states, urging proactive steps to tackle the emerging El Niño risk.

In an advisory issued to states, the ministry highlighted that the real challenge is not overall availability but ensuring the timely positioning of the right varieties of seeds at the district and block levels before the onset of the monsoon.

The ministry specifically flagged significant seed shortfalls in Jharkhand and a near-zero contingency buffer in Tamil Nadu. Jharkhand is the only state facing deficits across all crops, with availability at 3,09,421 quintals against a requirement of 3,91,629 quintals. In Tamil Nadu, seed availability stands at 7,22,095 quintals against a requirement of 7,20,877 quintals, leaving a marginal surplus of 1,217 quintals.

"Tamil Nadu's near-zero buffer leaves no contingency margin," the ministry warned, adding that a delayed monsoon or need for crop switching would require urgent procurement from surplus states.

On the positive side, several states enjoy comfortable surpluses, including Karnataka, Telangana and Andhra Pradesh. The ministry has set a National Seed Reserve (NSR) target of 1,74,325 quintals for the season, comprising certified and foundation seeds of short and medium-duration varieties, including drought- and heat-tolerant types.

With the southwest monsoon currently 4-5 days behind schedule, and El Nino conditions posing a potential threat to rainfall patterns, the ministry asked states to factor in weather risks in their planning at block and district levels.

India receives fresh fertiliser shipments ahead of kharif season

NEW DELHI, DHNS: The Central government on Monday said that the four cargo vessels carrying urea, diammonium phosphate (DAP), and sulphur successfully navigated the Strait of Hormuz last week despite ongoing geopolitical tensions in West Asia, and were now en route to major Indian ports: Krishnapatnam, Kakinada, Paradeep, and Mundra.

Once they arrive, the cargo will be offloaded to bolster existing fertiliser buffers and ensure adequate supplies for the ongoing kharif sowing season, said the Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilisers.

Domestic fertiliser production has reached 133.12 lakh tonnes since the beginning of the current crisis on March 1, while imports stand at 43.69 lakh tonnes.

In its latest global tender, India has contracted an additional 17.7 lakh tonnes of urea, taking the total secured supplies of urea and phosphatic and potassic (P&K) fertilisers to over 90 lakh tonnes for the kharif season, the ministry said in a statement.

Urea consignments have been locked in from multiple countries — including Oman, Malaysia, Vietnam, Georgia, Nigeria, Russia, Finland, Egypt, Algeria, Turkey, and the Netherlands.

DAP and nitrogen, phosphorus, and potassium (NPK) fertilisers are being sourced via the Red Sea from Russia, Morocco, Egypt, the US, Jordan, South Korea, Tunisia, and Saudi Arabia, the statement added.

Dipke steps up attack over NEET row; protesters stay put

NEW DELHI, PTI: The Cockroach Janta Party (CJP) continued its sit-in protest at Delhi's Jantar Mantar for the third consecutive day on Monday, with founder Abhijeet Dipke stepping up his attack on the Centre over alleged examination irregularities and the NEET paper-leak controversy, as the protesters vowed to carry on their agitation until Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan resigns.

The protest, which began on Saturday afternoon, continued through Sunday, with supporters staying at the venue amid police deployment. Dipke said despite Monday being a working day, the protest site remained crowded and asserted that the demonstration would continue through the night.

"Day 3 at Jantar Mantar! Despite it being Monday, Jantar Mantar is full. The protest will continue tonight as well. We are not going to leave until Dharmendra Pradhan resigns," he said in a post on X, sharing pictures from the protest site.

Dipke invited UPSC and SSC aspirants to come to Jantar Mantar on Tuesday and share their grievances.

Candles were lit at the venue in memory of students who allegedly died by suicide following the paper-leak controversy.

30 members of NEET 'solver gang' held in Bihar

Among arrested are 5 MBBS students, a genuine candidate

ABHAY KUMAR
PATNA

The Bihar Police on Monday arrested 30 persons, including five medical students, who impersonated as NEET candidates and took the re-examination on Sunday.

Most of the arrests were at three examination centres in Lakhisarai district.

The police received a tip-off before the re-NEET examination in the second half that there were few 'solvers', mostly MBBS students, appearing as impersonators, in lieu of Rs 20 lakh each.

One of them is Mayank Kashyap, a fourth year MBBS student of Patna Medical College and Hospital (PMCH), who was appearing for an NEET aspirant in Lakhisarai. Others are Arpit Raj, an MBBS student in Gaya, Ravi Shankar, an MBBS student at Pavapuri Medical College in Rajgir, and Saurabh Jha and Aman Agarwal, both MBBS students from Uttar Pradesh.

Though the PMCH administration had put an embargo on any MBBS student leaving the campus on Sunday, Manish managed to give authorities a slip. He connived with a biometric staff, Ankit Kumar, and entered the examination centre posing as a biometric company employee, said Lakhisarai SP Prerna.

ADG (Law and Order) Sudhanshu Kumar said 18 staff members associated with the biometric verification system had been arrested for allegedly colluding with dummy candidates and middlemen.

A nursing student, Poonam Kumari, was also arrested. A genuine candidate, Sanjeet Kumar of Nalanda district, was also arrested for irregularities.

"Each impersonator had taken Rs 1 lakh to Rs 2 lakh as advance (payment) and the deal was for Rs 20 lakh from each candidate. The balance amount was to be paid once the candidate cleared the examination. As investigation will progress, more arrests are likely," said the Sub-Divisional Police Officer (SDPO), Shivam Kumar.

Police are verifying the bank account details of the apprehended MBBS students as well as the biometric employees.

Thoothukudi weather mystery: Tornado or severe thunderstorm?

E T B SIVAPRIYAN
CHENNAI, DHNS

A tornado forms amid dark clouds, in Thoothukudi, Tamil Nadu, on Sunday. PTI

Did a tornado just strike Tamil Nadu's port city of Thoothukudi, or was it simply a severe thunderstorm?

Winds that uprooted trees and caused significant damage to a toll plaza have left residents of the city surprised and experts in disagreement.

Locals said they had never witnessed strong winds like the ones that swept through the city — especially Vagaikulam and the airport area — on Sunday, giving the impression that a tornado had struck.

The weather event is significant, because a tornado or a tornado-like storm is very rare in South India, while Odisha and a few Northeastern states experience it occasionally.

While operations at the Thoothukudi Airport were not affected, there seemed to have been significant damage to nearby structures.

The India Meteorological Department (IMD)'s Regional Meteorological Centre (RMC), Chennai, said it was not a tornado but a localised convective vortex, dust whirl, or a transient funnel closely associated with thunderstorm activity.

Tornado formation is generally associated with the presence of a strong pressure gradient, pronounced low-level wind shear, substantial atmospheric instability, organised storm-scale rotation, and favourable mesoscale environmental conditions.

Regional Weather Forecasting Centre, Chennai, head V R Durai said meteorological analysis indicated that these conditions were not present over the Thoothukudi region at the time of the occurrence.

"While strong cumulonimbus clouds can occasionally produce brief funnel-like formations, localised gusty winds, and blowing dust, the likelihood of tornado development over Thoothukudi during the Southwest Monsoon season remains low," he said.

However, independent weather bloggers, who have predicted several weather events bang-on, said the IMD should record such incidents threadbare for future assessment rather than dismissing them.

They said the damage caused to a toll plaza — whose roofs have been obliterated — didn't make it look like a localised event.

One of those manning the toll plaza near the airport said the "tornado-like" event occurred at 4.45 pm, and was scary to witness. "There is nothing left at the toll plaza. From the roof to the computers to other temporary structures, everything is gone," the worker said.

SC ups payout to Rs 1.46 cr in Kerala road accident case

NEW DELHI, DHNS: In a significant ruling, the Supreme Court has substantially increased the compensation awarded to a young man from Kerala who was left paralysed and bedridden following a horrific road accident in 2017, terming the earlier awards as falling short of "just compensation".

A bench enhanced the total compensation to Rs 1.46 crore for Ramshad P, who was just 20 years old at the time of the accident.

The recent ruling underscores the judiciary's emphasis on providing adequate and realistic compensation in motor accident cases involving catastrophic injuries, particularly for young victims facing decades of dependency and medical needs.

Manipur: Forces recover arms from villages at centre of fresh Naga-Kuki conflict

SUMIR KARMAKAR
GUWAHATI, DHNS

Security forces, including the Indian Army and personnel of the elite CoBRA battalion of the CRPF, made significant progress in disarming civilians in Leilon Vaiphei and nearby villages in Manipur's Kuki-dominated Kangpokpi district in the past 48 hours by recovering at least 36 weapons and dismantling "bunkers" used by armed villagers, officials said.

The combing operation — which also included Rapid Action Force and Manipur Police personnel — was launched on Sunday at the Leilon Vaiphei, Leilon Munlui, Molhoi, P. Moulding, Leilon Khunou villages and nearby areas, which has been the centre of the fresh Naga-Kuki conflict since May 13.

The arms recovered from the villages included 17 single and double-barrel guns, two AK-47 rifles, two SLRs, one M4 Carbine, one SKS rifle, and one improvised sniper .303 rifle.

The most recent Naga-Kuki conflict in the area began when several from the Nagas Konsakhul Naga village were were allegedly abducted by Kukis on May 13 from the neighbouring Leilon Vaiphei Kuki village.

Tensions escalated after the bodies of six of the Nagas were found on June 11. Following this, two Kukis were killed allegedly by the Nagas.

The Nagas also enforced an indefinite inter-district "economic blockade" on NH-2, which connects Imphal with Nagaland via Kangpokpi.

8 women critically ill after C-sections at Raj dist hospital

JODHPUR, PTI: Eight women developed severe health complications, including kidney failure, following caesarean sections at the district hospital here, the latest in a series of such cases reported in Rajasthan.

The women complained of excessive bleeding and low blood pressure after surgery. Two of them, who developed severe kidney infections, have been referred to Mathuradas Mathur Hospital, where they are undergoing treatment in the Intensive Care Unit (ICU).

Following the incident, the hospital administration has temporarily closed the operation theatre. Samples have been collected from the OT for investigation, and all surgical procedures have been suspended until the test reports are received, officials said.

Earlier, similar incidents have come to light where four women in Kota and two in Bikaner have died after developing complications following a caesarean delivery.

An expert team from the AIIMS-Delhi and other central medical institutions was constituted to probe the deaths in Kota. Investigations were also launched in the Bikaner incident.

B S Jodha, Principal of SN Medical College, said the eight caesarean sections were performed on Saturday.

Two were shifted to MDM Hospital after their condition worsened, while the remaining six women are being treated at the district hospital.

District Hospital PMO Kulbir Chopra said that the condition of the six women admitted at the district hospital is currently stable.

DEFENCE DEAL

India in talks to sell BrahMos missile to UAE: Sources

NEW DELHI, REUTERS

The Indian government is in talks with the UAE to sell some of its flagship defence systems, including the supersonic cruise missile BrahMos, four Indian sources said, as the Gulf nation steps up arms procurement following the war in West Asia.

The discussions, which have not been previously reported, include the potential sale of India's air defence system Akashteer, two sources told Reuters.

"The UAE has shown interest in a number of our weapon systems, including BrahMos and Akashteer. The talks between India and the UAE are at initial stages and are progressing fast," said another source.

BrahMos, jointly developed by India and Russia, is among the world's fastest cruise missiles and can be launched from land, sea, and air platforms, while Akashteer is a fully automated air defence system developed by Bharat Electronics Ltd and the Indian Army.

The UAE is considering buying defence equipment from India and other sources after being heavily attacked by Iran during the West Asia conflict, and as it enhances its ability to respond to emerging threats.

It also needs to protect the Strait of Hormuz, a crucial conduit for its energy exports.

According to data from the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI), the US was the biggest exporter of arms to West Asia between 2021 and 2025, supplying 54% of imports, followed by Italy at 12% and France at 11%.

Before clinching any BrahMos sale to the UAE, India would require Russia's approval, as the 290-km-range missile is jointly developed. One source said this was unlikely to pose a hurdle, given Moscow's close ties with Abu Dhabi.

Siemon Wezeman, a senior researcher with SIPRI's arms transfers programme, said both the BrahMos missile and Akashteer system would potentially serve the UAE's needs.

Doval meets China's Wang, holds 'constructive, forward-looking' talks

NEW DELHI, DHNS: India on Monday stressed "stable, predictable and constructive bilateral relations" with China, with the two sides preparing for the 25th round of boundary negotiations expected to be held later this year to discuss new mechanisms for border management.

National Security Advisor (NSA) Ajit Doval had a bilateral meeting with China's Foreign Minister Wang Yi on the sidelines of a BRICS meeting in New Delhi.

"The two sides reviewed recent developments in bilateral relations and noted progress towards gradual normalisation," Ministry of External Affairs spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal wrote on X. "The NSA underlined that stable, predictable and constructive bilateral relations contribute to building trust and better understanding between the two sides."

NSA Ajit Doval during a meeting with Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi on the sidelines of the BRICS National Security Advisers' Meeting, in New Delhi. PTI

Wang is also Doval's counterpart in President Xi Jinping's government. They also double up as the special representatives of the two governments for the boundary negotiations. "The discussions were constructive and forward-looking," Jaiswal said.

The meeting took place almost 10 months after they met in New Delhi in August, 2025, and held negotiations to settle the boundary dispute.

The diplomats and other officials of the two sides held the 35th meeting of the Working Mechanism for Consultation and Coordination on Border Affairs on May 27. They expressed satisfaction with the progress made in maintaining peace and tranquillity in the border areas, which has enabled progress towards the gradual normalisation of bilateral relations. They also discussed issues related to delimitation, border management, mechanism building and cross-border cooperation.

TN ammonia gas leak toll rises to 7

CHENNAI, DHNS: The death toll from the suspected ammonia leak at a private shrimp processing centre in Tiruvallur district rose to seven on Monday, with five more people succumbing to their injuries.

All seven are women labourers from Odisha, while 68 individuals, including five from Tamil Nadu, are currently receiving treatment.

A medical bulletin released by the Health Department said the government was closely monitoring the situation and ensuring the availability of medical care for the affected individuals.

Affected individuals primarily showed symptoms consistent with ammonia inhalation, including breathlessness, irritation of the eyes and respiratory tract, coughing, chest discomfort and varying degrees of respiratory distress.

The ammonia leak originated from the seafood processing unit of St Peter's Paul Seafoods Exports Private Limited near Periyapalayam on Sunday afternoon and spread across the premises, including the residential complex, where over 120 migrant workers from Assam, Jharkhand and Odisha were staying.

TN Assembly proceedings telecast in entirety

CHENNAI, DHNS: For the first time, the proceedings of the Tamil Nadu Legislative Assembly were telecast live in their entirety on Monday, marking a new chapter in the history of the century-old Assembly, which originally came into being during the British rule.

It was the previous DMK government (2021-2026) that took the first step towards broadcasting House events but the coverage remained selective – Chief Minister's speeches, interventions from ministers, and specific debates. The then government also faced allegations that the live telecast was interrupted when opposition members spoke and whenever a verbal duel broke out between the treasury and opposition benches.

"Selective live telecast" of Assembly events has been a major election issue with the Tamilaga Vetri Kazhagam promising live telecast without any interruptions.

"For the first time in 75 years, the entire proceedings of the TN Assembly is being telecast live," Public Works Minister Aadhav Arjuna said.

'Let me reach my son': Parents plead, students leap to escape UP fire

Scenes of anguish as Lucknow animation centre turns death trap; high-level probe on

LUCKNOW, PTI

As a mother begged police to let her reach her trapped son and people made frantic calls for help from inside a smoke-filled building, residents and rescue teams raced against time to save those caught in a devastating fire at a three-storey commercial building in Aliganj area on Monday.

The blaze erupted at the building housing an animation centre on Usha Mehta Marg, leaving 15 people dead and seven injured. The cause of the fire is yet to be ascertained, with authorities ordering a high-level probe into the incident.

First responders

As flames rapidly started engulfing the building, local residents became the first responders even before emergency services arrived.

Eyewitnesses said many tried to break the building's glass panes to allow thick smoke to escape and create possible routes for those trapped inside.

Many of those trapped were students who had come to learn animation during their summer vacation. Eyewitnesses said several people tried to help stranded students inside the building.

Outside the building, scenes of anguish unfolded as parents and relatives rushed to the spot after receiving distress calls from those trapped.

Some women were seen pleading with police personnel to let them enter the building.

"Let me go to my son", one distraught woman cried repeatedly, pleading with officials as rescue operations continued.

Among those who joined the rescue was Lance Naik Chhabi Ram, posted in Agra and currently attached to the Lucknow headquarters, who happened to be passing by when he noticed the blaze.

One of the most harrowing moments was captured in visuals showing a student jumping from an upper floor to escape the flames. People on the ground quickly spread a mattress-like object to cushion the fall, following which locals immediately moved the student away from the area and arranged medical assistance.

Ram said his professional experience led officials to involve him in the rescue work. He said he helped in the relief operation and saw more than a dozen bodies being brought out from the building, while several people were also rescued alive.

A fire official conducts rescue operation after fire broke out at a commercial building in Aliganj, Lucknow on Monday. PTI

Residents step in

As firefighters battled the inferno, residents of neighbouring buildings also stepped forward to help. People living behind the affected structure supplied water bottles to firefighters engaged in the rescue operation.

Firefighters reached the adjoining building and created two openings to enter the affected structure from the upper floors, continuing an intensive search-and-rescue operation from inside.

Dhiraj Mehra reached the site after receiving a frantic call from his colleague, Aditya Srivastava, a 3D artist working at the gaming zone on the third floor.

"He called me saying 'bacha lo' (save me), and I rushed to the site," Mehra recalled.

Eyewitness Anurag Pandit, a civil services aspirant, said he could only pray for the safety of those trapped inside.

"I am praying they are alive," he said.

Uphaar Cinema Fire, Delhi (1997)
Fire during a movie screening killed 59 people and injured over 100, triggering major scrutiny of fire safety norms.

Kumbakonam School Fire, Tamil Nadu (2004)
A blaze in a thatched-roof school claimed 94 children's lives, prompting nationwide school safety reforms.

BLAZES FROM THE PAST

- **AMRI Hospital Fire, Kolkata (2011)** — Toxic smoke from a basement fire killed around 90 people, many of them patients.
- **Puttingal Temple Fire, Kollam, Kerala (2016)** — A fireworks explosion during a temple festival left 110 dead and hundreds injured.
- **Surat Coaching Centre Fire (2019)** — Fire at a coaching centre killed 22 students, leading to widespread safety inspections.
- **Rajkot TRP Game Zone Fire (2024)** — A blaze at an indoor gaming facility claimed 27 lives, prompting a nationwide crackdown on fire safety violations.

A firefighter holds a rescued cat. PTI

Op Tiger done & dusted, Shinde parades his 'Dhurandhars'

Jolt to Uddhav; LS Speaker to decide on factions' claims

MUMBAI, DHNS

Four years after engineering the split in the Balasaheb Thackeray-founded Shiv Sena, Deputy Chief Minister Eknath Shinde on Monday delivered another major setback to his political rival Uddhav Thackeray by successfully drawing six Shiv Sena (UBT) Lok Sabha MPs into his camp.

The development marks the biggest setback for the Uddhav-led party since the 2022 rebellion and underscores the challenges it faces in retaining its elected representatives ahead of the 2029 electoral cycle.

At a show of strength in Mumbai, Shinde appeared alongside the six MPs who have switched allegiance to the Shiv Sena: Sanjay Dina Patil (Mumbai North-East), Sanjay Deshmukh (Yavatmal-Washim), Sanjay Jadhav (Parbhani), Bhausaheb Wakchaure (Shirdi-SC), Omprakash alias Omraje Nimbalkar (Dharashiv/Osmanabad) and Nagesh Patil-Ashtikar (Hingoli).

THE BIG SWITCH

- Shinde presents defectors in Mumbai
- Deputy chief minister insists move within democratic norms
- Biggest setback to Sena (UBT) since 2022 rebellion
- Uddhav Thackeray hints at legal contest

Declaring the success of 'Operation Tiger', Shinde said the six MPs had joined the "real Shiv Sena".

"Operation Tiger is successful. The six tigers are here. They have now joined the real Shiv Sena family. I welcome them. As I had said earlier, we do not leave any operation incomplete; we complete what we take up," said Shinde, who led the June 2022 revolt that split the Shiv Sena and toppled the Maha Vikas Aghadi government headed by Uddhav Thackeray.

Seeking to draw parallels with his 2022 rebellion, Shinde said, "Four years ago, on June 22, 2022, we launched a revolt within the Shiv Sena with 40 Members of the Legislative Assembly. After the 2024 Vidhan Sabha elections, we have 57 MLAs. This time, we have hit a six, not a four.

These six leaders are grassroots politicians connected with the people... they are our Dhurandhars."

The Shiv Sena chief maintained that the entire process took place within the framework of the Constitution and democratic norms.

Six Lok Sabha MPs from the Uddhav Thackeray-led Shiv Sena faction with Maharashtra Deputy Chief Minister and Shiv Sena chief Eknath Shinde after joining his party, in Mumbai on Monday. PTI

Eyes on Speaker

With the political realignment now out in the open, attention has shifted to Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla, who will decide on the rival claims made by the two factions.

The six lawmakers have already submitted a representation to the Speaker seeking recognition as a separate group, while the Shiv Sena (UBT) has challenged the move, arguing that it violates party discipline and anti-defection provisions.

Shinde's son and Kalyan MP Shrikant Shinde played a key role in coordinating the parliamentary aspects of the exercise.

The development significantly strengthens the BJP-led NDA's numbers in the Lok Sabha and further consolidates Shinde's position as the dominant force within the Sena camp.

Legal options

The Shiv Sena (UBT), meanwhile, signalled that it would contest the development both politically and legally. Without directly responding to Shinde's show of strength, Uddhav indicated that his party would soon present its position. "When I feel the time is right, I will call the media and speak. Let them present their side first," he said.

Party leaders said legal and parliamentary options are being examined, while Rajya Sabha MP Sanjay Raut renewed his charge that pressure and inducements were used to engineer the split.

SANJAY RAUT
Sena (UBT) leader

"A Kenyan woman holds a record for giving birth to quintuplets, but a cradle of six traitors is now swaying in 'Nandanvan' (the official residence of Shinde). Shinde has given birth to six 'gaddars' (traitors.)

Didi loses TMC crown as rebels name Arup Roy as chief

KOLKATA, DHNS

Twenty-years after she founded the Trinamool Congress, Mamata Banerjee lost the crown of the party supremo as TMC rebels on Monday removed her from the chairperson's post.

The rebels, led by Ritabrata Bandopadhyay, had a meeting at a hotel in Kolkata where they decided to reconstitute the party's national working committee, and appointed Arup Roy — a veteran legislator elected from the Howrah Central Assembly constituency — as the new chairperson.

Arup Roy

Mamata's nephew Abhishek Bandopadhyay was also removed from the post of the party's national general secretary.

The meeting was not only attended by the rebel TMC legislators, but also nearly 70 former councillors of the Kolkata Municipal Corporation, which the state's new BJP government recently dissolved.

Ritabrata said TMC's constitution had mandated the reconstitution of the national working committee after every three years and that the last such reconstitution had been done in February 2022.

The new national working committee constituted by the rebels included Mamata's long-term close aides like Arup Roy, Firhad Hakim, Aroop Biswas, Biplab Mitra, Akhruzzaman Ansari, Sabina Yasmin, Rathin Ghosh, Javed Khan, in addition to Ritabrata.

Monday's move by the rebels signalled a step towards claiming the Election Commission's recognition as the real TMC, as well as to set the stage to claim the party's Twin-Flower electoral symbol.

"We are the Trinamool Congress. The symbol will be rightfully with us," said Ritabrata, who led the rebellion by nearly 60 of the 80 newly elected legislators of the TMC last month. He said if Mamata wanted to be the chief advisor of the "real TMC", they would welcome her.

Mamata launched TMC on January 1, 1998, after breaking away from the Congress. She has been leading the TMC government in the state since 2011.

Reacting to this development, Kunal Ghosh, a leader of the TMC faction loyal to Mamata, said, "It is a comedy show. A man (Ritabrata) who has been expelled from TMC is holding a special session."

Indian Navy ship INS Kavaratti arrives at Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam. The visit aims to strengthen maritime cooperation and professional exchanges between India and Vietnam. PTI

CBSE review marksheets to be available in regional offices

NEW DELHI, DHNS: The Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) said on Monday that revised marksheets for Class 12 board examinations will be available soon in all its regional offices.

The Board on Sunday announced the marks after the re-evaluation.

It said that revised marksheets will be available in DigiLocker for students who need it immediately for admission in colleges.

"Candidates will be required to surrender their old original marksheets before the issuance of the revised marksheet. The updated marksheet is also available in the candidate's DigiLocker account and is valid for all purposes. Candidates who require it immediately are advised to use the DigiLocker marksheet," the CBSE said.

In all, CBSE has around 16 regional offices in cities like Delhi, Bengaluru, Chandigarh, Patna, Guwahati and Thiruvananthapuram, as well as several sub-regional offices in cities like Gurugram, Lucknow, Ranchi and Agartala.

On Monday, CBSE said 87% of those who applied for re-evaluation were given their marksheets, and the remaining will get in some time.

CBSE had declared the board results for around 17.69 lakh candidates on May 13, but had used a new method of evaluation — the On Screen Marking method — for the first time. This led to widespread discrepancies.

Top court slams red tape blocking family adoptions

ASHISH TRIPATHI
NEW DELHI, DHNS

The Supreme Court on Monday came down heavily on bureaucratic hurdles in adoption cases, questioning why the Central Adoption Resource Authority (CARA) was opposing the adoption of a minor girl by her own maternal aunt settled in the United States.

A bench of Justices BV Nagarathna and Joymalya Bagchi expressed strong displeasure while hearing a writ petition filed by the minor girl and her adoptive parents.

The petitioners challenged CARA's stand that prevented the processing of an inter-country relative adoption after the child had already been legally adopted under the Hindu Adoptions and Maintenance Act (HAMA), 1956.

The girl's mother had passed away in July 2024, following which the child was adopted by her maternal aunt and uncle through a registered adoption deed under HAMA.

The couple, who are US residents, now sought to complete the formalities for taking the child with them.

When CARA's counsel sought time to file a reply, the SC sharply questioned the authority's resistance. "Why are you opposing adoption? Why can't family members adopt," Justice Nagarathna asked, recalling a previous case involving twins where the paternal aunt had faced similar obstacles while trying to adopt and take the children to the United Kingdom.

"Father's sister wanted to adopt... All the obstacles were raised by your department. Why are you against it? The family wants to adopt and all the bureaucratic red tapism comes in the way," Justice Nagarathna observed.

'NEGATIVE ATTITUDE'

- SC slams hurdles, flags 'negative attitude'
- Says CARA creating unnecessary hurdles
- US permission expires July 20, petitioners urge action
- CARA told to complete steps without delay

The case underscores growing judicial concern over procedural delays and rigid interpretations that come in the way of genuine family-based adoptions, particularly in inter-country cases involving close relatives.

The bench expressed concern over CARA's "very negative attitude", noting that even when parents are willing to adopt their relative's child, the department was creating unnecessary hurdles.

Advocate Noor Shergill, representing the petitioners, highlighted the urgency of the matter, stating that permission granted by the US government for the adoption would expire on July 20.

"I am not asking them to issue a letter. I am just saying complete the process," Shergill submitted.

The court directed CARA to take all necessary steps for processing the petitioners' application without prejudice to its contentions in the writ petition.

The SC posted the matter for further hearing in July and made it clear that if CARA failed to file its counter affidavit, the court may proceed to hear the case without it. The court also observed that the permission granted by US authorities should not be defeated merely because CARA had not filed its response.

'Won't open Pandora's box': SC on challenge to collegium decisions

NEW DELHI, DHNS: The Supreme Court on Monday said collegium decisions on appointing judges to constitutional courts are based on the subjective satisfaction of its members and fall outside the scope of judicial review.

The top court declined to entertain a writ petition filed by a senior judicial officer from Himachal Pradesh seeking directions to the High Court Collegium to consider his name for elevation as an HC judge, observing that it cannot issue judicial directions to the collegium on such matters.

A bench of Justices BV Nagarathna and Joymalya Bagchi said the court does not want to open a Pandora's box, and instead orally suggested the petitioner-judicial officer exercise patience as future vacancies would arise during his remaining 10-year service period.

Arvind Malhotra, currently serving as the principal judge of the Family Court in Dharamshala, moved the Supreme Court alleging that despite its September 2024 direction to the Himachal Pradesh HC collegium to reconsider his name along with another judge, the collegium instead forwarded the names of his juniors. Those recommendations were later approved by the SC collegium.

Senior advocate Balbir Singh, appearing for Malhotra, contended that the petitioner was called for an interaction in September 2025 and asked to submit documents, but the collegium recommended his juniors for the existing vacancies without properly considering his candidature.

The bench, however, noted that there was no material on record to show that Malhotra's name was rejected.

"Please wait, let's see what the collegium there will do. There may not be any rejection of your candidature," Justice Nagarathna observed.

Emphasising the secrecy and autonomy of collegium proceedings, Justice Nagarathna said, "These are matters for the subjective satisfaction of the collegium... Can the Supreme Court, on the judicial side, direct the collegium to do this or that, to consider a particular name? It is beyond the scope of jurisdiction."

The Supreme Court further noted that since the High Court collegium's recommendation had been approved by the SC collegium, the petitioner's challenge at this stage lacked a cause of action.

"We don't want to open a Pandora's box regarding the proceedings of the HC collegium and the SC collegium at this stage," Justice Nagarathna added.

Plea in SC seeks CBI probe into Ram Temple fund 'irregularities'

NEW DELHI, DHNS: Two advocates have approached the Supreme Court seeking directions for the registration of an FIR and a time-bound, independent investigation into the alleged embezzlement and financial irregularities in the funds collected for Ayodhya's Ram Temple.

The petitioners — advocates Ajay Kumar Rai and Dinesh Kumar Yadav — urged the apex court to constitute a CBI-led multi-disciplinary special investigation team (SIT) to probe the affairs of the Shri Ram Janmbhoomi Teerth Kshetra Trust.

They contended that opaque handling of donations by the trust, which holds a fiduciary position, had undermined public faith and the sentiments of lakhs of devotees who contributed voluntarily to the temple's construction.

The plea emphasised that only a comprehensive probe by an agency with specialised expertise in financial and economic offences can establish the truth behind reports of missing funds.

The petitioners highlighted that an SIT set up by state government had begun probe without the registration of a formal FIR.

DECCAN HERALD
ESTABLISHED 1948

Preventive detention: The burden of suspicion

A two-judge bench of the Allahabad High Court has addressed serious threats to personal freedom posed by the arbitrary use of the provision of preventive detention. A division bench of the court recently ordered penalties on officials who misuse the provision under the Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita (BNSS), and issued guidelines on how detentions should be carried out. Police have been widely found to detain people, at times indefinitely, on the grounds of suspicion that they may commit an offence. The court ruled that compensation of Rs 25,000 be paid to the victims for every day of unlawful confinement beyond the statutory 24 hours, and that officials responsible for such detentions be held personally liable. It said the amount should be recovered from the salaries of the officials, who should also face disciplinary proceedings for dereliction of duty under the service rules.

The directions were issued in connection with a case in Ghaziabad, in which a physically challenged Dalit advocate was taken into custody after a dispute over the construction of a gate, and was sent to jail, though he was willing to furnish a bond as required by the law. The court decided, based on an inquiry, that the detention was unnecessary. It found that the Ghaziabad police had used the provision to keep in detention about 2,500 people over a period of one year. It has been noted that the detentions are normally followed by demands for the execution of expensive bonds for release. Many detainees find these sureties unaffordable. The court ruled that the detained persons should be required to furnish only a personal bond, without depositing the money, and that the amount should not exceed Rs 20,000. No surety should ordinarily be demanded. If a detainee refuses to execute the bond, it should be recorded in writing and through audio-visual means before they are sent to jail.

Allahabad HC's intervention reaffirms personal liberties and signals reform through deterrence

These are essential safeguards that will help ensure people are not unnecessarily harassed by the police or the administration. At the centre of the issue is the paradox of people being sent to jail only because the system decides they might be involved in offences yet to occur. But the larger concern is about the subversion of established practices that make their release increasingly difficult. The court said citizens should not be mechanically deprived of their right to personal freedom guaranteed by Article 21. Its guidelines also have a national significance in potentially preventing these subversions in other states.

A mission beyond rescue drives

The rescue of over 2,300 child and adolescent labourers across Karnataka over the last four years is both encouraging and disturbing. It is encouraging because it reflects the efforts of enforcement agencies; it is disturbing because every rescued child represents a failure of society to protect its most vulnerable citizens. In a state of more than six crore people, the numbers may appear small, but even one child forced into labour instead of attending school is one too many. What is even more troubling is the poor conviction rate, which sends a dangerous message that violating child labour laws carries little risk. To Karnataka's credit, the problem is far less severe than in many northern and central Indian states. Uttar Pradesh alone accounts for about two million child labourers, while Bihar, Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, and Maharashtra report alarmingly high numbers. Agriculture, brick kilns, mining, home-based industries, and informal urban employment remain major sources of exploitation in these states. Karnataka, along with Kerala and Tamil Nadu, has benefited from higher literacy rates, stronger school enrolment, and relatively better enforcement. However, this should not breed complacency.

Weak enforcement, low conviction rates, and poor departmental coordination have emboldened child labour violators

The law itself contains significant loopholes. The Child and Adolescent Labour (Prohibition and Regulation) Act prohibits children from working in hazardous occupations but permits adolescents to work in non-hazardous sectors under certain conditions. The controversial exemption allowing children to assist in family enterprises has often been misused. They are frequently portrayed as 'helping relatives' when, in reality, they are performing labour that deprives them of education and childhood. The judiciary has repeatedly emphasised that child labour violates fundamental rights. The Supreme Court, in the landmark *M C Mehta vs State of Tamil Nadu* case, directed governments to identify, withdraw, and rehabilitate child labourers while ensuring compulsory education. Subsequent judicial interventions have reinforced the state's duty to protect children from economic exploitation.

Violations continue because of inadequate inter-department coordination, shortage of labour inspectors, poor case documentation, lengthy court proceedings, and the dependence on migrant labour. Many rescued children in Karnataka are from northern and northeastern states, highlighting the interstate nature of the challenge. The solution requires more than occasional rescue drives. States must strengthen grassroots surveillance, improve coordination among education, police, labour, and child welfare authorities, and ensure swift prosecution of offenders. School dropout tracking, support for vulnerable families, and accountability across supply chains are equally important. A nation aspiring to become a global economic power cannot allow its children to sacrifice their future for survival.

REGULATION WITH RESTRAINT

Public order and the digital state

The Telegram suspension raises a fundamental question: Can oversight on digital platforms be bound by constitutional limits?

AKHIL YADAV

The Delhi High Court's decision upholding the temporary blocking of Telegram ahead of the NEET (UG) re-examination has generated significant debate within legal and technological circles. The government justified the measure by claiming that Telegram channels were allegedly used to circulate examination-related content and facilitate fraud connected to one of the country's most important entrance examinations. Accepting this justification, the court declined to interfere with the government's blocking order and held that the restrictions satisfied the constitutional requirement of proportionality.

As digital platforms increasingly become the primary spaces through which citizens communicate, learn, organise, and participate in public life, what constitutional limits should govern the State's power to regulate them?

The public debate surrounding the judgment has largely focused on whether Telegram deserved to be blocked. That, however, is the wrong question. The constitutional issue arises not from the legitimacy of the objective but from the nature of the means employed to achieve it.

Constitutional democracies do not merely evaluate whether a governmental objective is desirable. They also evaluate how that objective is pursued. The distinction is crucial. A government committed to public safety may still violate constitutional rights if it adopts measures that are excessive, disproportionate, or unsupported by law. In that sense, the real significance of the judgment lies in the precedent it establishes concerning the regulation of digital platforms.

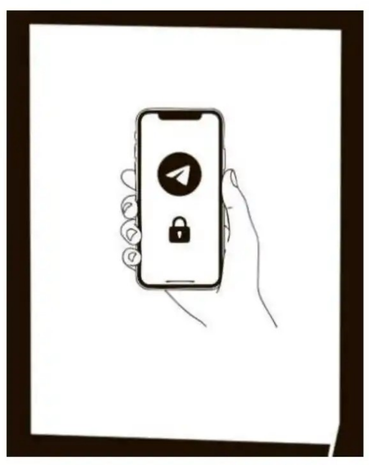
At the centre of the controversy lies Section 69A of the Information Technology Act, 2000. This provision authorises the government to direct the blocking of information under specific circumstances, including concerns relating to sovereignty, security, and public order.

For years, the provision has functioned primarily as a content-regulation mechanism. Specific websites, URLs, pages, and pieces of content have been blocked pursuant to its provisions. The Telegram decision appears to endorse a broader understanding of governmental authority, one that permits intervention at the level of the platform itself.

This distinction is not merely technical. It represents a significant shift in the architecture of digital regulation.

Content blocking targets unlawful material. Platform blocking targets the infrastructure through which lawful and unlawful communications alike take place. The consequences are therefore fundamentally different. While the former seeks to remove specific harms, the latter affects every user regardless of whether they have engaged in any wrongdoing.

The concern is not confined to Telegram. If the power to block information can extend to the blocking of an entire communication platform, the implications inevitably extend to every major intermediary operating in India. The issue is therefore one of principle rather than platform.



The judgment also highlights a deeper tension that increasingly confronts legal systems across the world: the problem of intermediary liability. Modern digital platforms facilitate billions of communications every day. Their business models depend upon enabling users to create, exchange, and disseminate content at unprecedented scales. At the same time, the very openness that makes these platforms valuable also makes them vulnerable to misuse.

The law has traditionally recognised that intermediaries are distinct from publishers. Unlike newspapers, platforms do not ordinarily create the content transmitted through their services. This distinction forms the foundation of intermediary protections across numerous jurisdictions.

Yet contemporary regulatory approaches increasingly expect platforms to prevent harmful conduct before it occurs. The question, therefore, becomes whether platforms should be judged by their efforts to address misuse or by their inability to eliminate it.

A particularly striking aspect of the debate surrounding Telegram concerns the emphasis upon its technological architecture. Features such as large channels, cloud-based storage, usernames, bots, and message editing were presented as factors that justified stronger intervention.

There is little doubt that such features can be exploited for unlawful purposes. Yet they are also used for entirely legitimate ends. Journalists rely on anonymity to communicate with sources. Civil society organisations use large channels for public outreach. Educational institutions use digital communities to disseminate information. Automated tools are routinely used for customer support, information dissemination, and research.

Technology is inherently dual-use. The same design feature that enables abuse often enables socially beneficial activity.

A constitutional framework must therefore exercise caution before treating technological capability as evidence of regulatory culpability. Otherwise, innovation itself risks becoming a source of legal vulnerability.

The future of digital constitutionalism

Perhaps the most important constitutional question raised by the judgment concerns proportionality.

The doctrine of proportionality has emerged as one of the central safeguards against excessive State action. It requires restrictions upon rights to pursue a legitimate objective, maintain a rational connection with that objective, remain necessary, and impose the least possible burden upon affected rights.

The first requirement is easily satisfied. Protecting the integrity of public examinations is unquestionably a legitimate objective. The more difficult question concerns necessity. Was platform-wide blocking the least restrictive measure available? Could targeted channel removals, account suspensions, criminal investigations, enhanced monitoring, or coordinated enforcement mechanisms have achieved similar objectives? Were less intrusive alternatives exhausted before resorting to a measure affecting millions of users?

The broader challenge facing India is neither unique nor temporary. Democracies around the world are struggling to reconcile competing demands for security, accountability, innovation, and freedom in digital spaces. The question is no longer whether governments should regulate platforms. Some degree of regulation is both inevitable and necessary. The real challenge lies in ensuring that regulation remains anchored to constitutional principles. The Telegram controversy will eventually fade from public memory. The legal principles underlying it will not.

As platforms increasingly become the public squares of the digital age, constitutional democracies will face a recurring dilemma: how to address genuine harms without granting governments powers broad enough to threaten the very freedoms they seek to protect.

The future of internet governance in India will depend not merely on how effectively the State regulates platforms but on how faithfully those regulations remain bound by constitutional restraint.

(The writer is a law student at Gujarat National Law University, Gandhinagar)

RIGHT IN THE MIDDLE

Lessons between wickets

Standing alone against friends was difficult. So, I started altering decisions

K V CHANDRAMOULI

Childhood cricket was never just a game; it was an emotion, a daily ritual, and a lively classroom where life taught its earliest lessons. We had no proper pitches or boundary ropes—our grounds were streets, vacant plots, or schoolyards. Bricks or slippers became stumps, and rules were created, adjusted, and sometimes ignored depending on the moment. Yet, despite this informality, one thing was certain: controversies were inevitable, turning every match into more than just play.

Every game would eventually reach a moment of argument. Decisions on LBW, wide balls, or unusual deliveries—what we called "no balls"—would spark intense debates. The bowler would appeal confidently, the batsman would defend passionately, and within seconds, the group would split into two loud camps. In such moments, the umpire became both the most important and the most vulnerable person on the field.

I often found myself in that role. At first, it felt like authority—raising a finger for "out" or signalling a "wide" brought a brief sense of importance. But that feeling faded quickly. The real challenge began after the decision. If I gave a batsman out LBW, protests erupted instantly: "That's not out!" "It pitched outside!" "No way it was hitting the stumps!" Voices grew louder, and reason all but disappeared.

Similarly, when a wide was not given, arguments escalated rapidly. What began as a simple call soon turned into a noisy dispute, driven more by volume than logic. Standing alone against a group of friends was difficult. Gradually, I began doing something unintended—I started altering decisions. Not out of doubt, but to keep the game going peacefully. Correctness took a back seat; compromise became the priority.

Looking back, these moments reveal deeper truths about human nature. Childhood cricket taught the power of group pressure: even when sure of what is right, it is hard to stand firm against many voices. It also showed the delicate balance between fairness and practicality. Sometimes, maintaining harmony felt more important than insisting on correctness. These small experiences quietly shaped character, nurturing patience, empathy, and courage.

Beyond compromise, cricket taught resilience. The joy of the game never faded. Arguments ended as quickly as they began. A new ball was bowled, a boundary was cheered, and laughter returned. The same friends who argued fiercely would soon celebrate together. This cycle of conflict and reconciliation mirrors life—disagreements are inevitable, but they need not damage relationships.

Most importantly, childhood cricket instilled integrity. Standing by the right decision requires courage, especially under pressure. Over time, these small choices form a moral compass that guides us in larger challenges.

That was the beauty of childhood cricket—competitive, emotional, imperfect, yet deeply unifying. In the end, the real victory was never in scoring runs or taking wickets but in learning when to stand firm, when to let go, and how to walk off the field with both self-respect and friendships intact.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Leave the divine out of politics

This refers to 'Cross-voting: BYV bats for Dharmasthala test to find truth' (June 22). The row within the BJP over some of its MLAs allegedly cross-voting in favour of the Congress in the recent Legislative Council polls has taken an ugly turn, with BJP state president B Y Vijayendra proposing a legislature party meeting in Dharmasthala. There, he intends to "determine the truth" by asking party MLAs to swear before the presiding deity that they did not cross-vote. While some BJP leaders have rightly opposed the move, the proposal itself runs contrary to India's pluralistic and democratic spirit. One hopes sanity prevails.
M Basavaraj, Davanagere

Reclaiming dignity

The Supreme Court's landmark ruling makes the right to safe pavements a core component of Article 21, serving as a much-needed moral wake-up call. For decades, India's lopsided urban development has aggressively prioritised vehicular horsepower over basic human life. Consequently, India faces a tragic statistic of over 20,000 pedestrian deaths annually due to neglected, broken infrastructure. Reclaiming the sidewalks from illegal encroachments and vehicle parking should be an ethical mandate. Municipalities must build with profound civic empathy to turn concrete slabs back into safe pathways of shared human dignity.
Vijaykumar H K, Raichur

Our readers are welcome to email letters to: **letters@deccanherald.co.in** (only letters emailed – not handwritten – will be accepted). All letters must carry the sender's postal address and phone number.

SPEAK OUT

I did it earlier to save the principles of late Balasaheb Thackeray and to save the Shiv Sena. Now, this move is the second stage of Shiv Sena. All rebels are dhurandhars.

Eknath Shinde (after pulling six UBT MPs into the Sena fold)

Moral codes adjust themselves to environmental conditions.

Will Durant

TO BE PRECISE

IN PERSPECTIVE

Reimagining early childhood care

India must guarantee early childhood development as a right, not delivered through piecemeal schemes

JYOTSNA SRIPADA

Every morning, two-year-old Nayana (name changed) was dropped off at the *Koosina Mane* (creche) located near her home in Ramanagara district, Karnataka. Her mother would pick her up after completing work at the construction site. In the *Koosina Mane*, Nayana could play, eat nutritious food, drink clean water, rest, and was tended to carefully by the caretaker appointed as a contract worker under the National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (NREGA). This routine lasted for about three months; then, the caretaker's employment contract ended. She had completed 100 wage days. No replacement was appointed, and no timeline was given. The *Koosina Mane* closed, and Nayana was left at home under the care of her grandmother.

No scheme tracked what she ate after the creche closed, no programme monitored her growth, and no system noticed the gap. She had simply fallen through.

There are more than 71 lakh children (Census, 2011) aged 0-6 years in Karnataka whose growth and development trajectory hinges on the availability of sustained and holistic care. The early childhood phase (usually defined as 0-6 years) witnesses some of the most significant and foundational developments that eventually determine survival, longevity, productivity, and other important parameters.

This age group has been a focal point of key programmes such as the Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) and frameworks such as the Early Childhood Care and Education Policy, 2013. Yet, the latest data from the National Family Health Survey-6 indicates that investments in early childhood care have not necessarily translated into concrete gains. For instance, in Karnataka, only 18.3% of children aged between six and twenty-three months consume an adequate diet. This is the lowest among the five southern states. Only 57.9% of children aged 6-8 months receive solid or semi-solid foods along with breastmilk, and only 61.6% of children under six months are exclusively breastfed. While the ICDS may cater to children aged six months to six years, the NFHS-6 data reiterates the need to prioritise children in the age group of six months to three years.

Early childhood care and development extend beyond early learning systems. It begins when the child is conceived, and continues through pregnancy, delivery, and afterwards.

Article 45 of the Indian Constitution places an obligation on the State to '...provide early childhood care and education for all children until they complete the age of six years'. The ratification of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) in 1992 provides a sense of direction to uphold the survival, development, participation, and protection rights of children. Despite these two strong commitments, outcomes in nutrition, care, health, education, and protection remain grossly insufficient. The gap between constitutional promise and lived reality is not a failure of intent – it is a failure of architecture. Addressing this requires not better schemes, but a fundamental reimagination of how India approaches the earliest years of life.

The law: Scope and limits

The State's obligation under Article 45 is operationalised through two channels: first, legally enforceable rights (for example, supplementary nutrition for children under three is recognised as an entitlement in the National Food Security Act, 2013); and second, a wide array of programmes such as the ICDS. Not all services a child below six would need for holistic growth and development are recognised as legal entitlements (the Right to Education is applicable only for children aged 6-14 years).

In most cases, these two channels are fragmented, ineffective, and incomplete. Different departments are responsible for the delivery of entitlements and benefits. These are not just delivered separately but also budgeted, documented, monitored, and evaluated separately. To ensure effective, timely and adequate care, the approach needs a fundamental shift: From fragmented to a unified framework that recognises care, nutrition, cognitive stimulation, protection, and education as components grounded in a rights-based approach.

A fundamental right to early childhood care would change three things that the current system cannot address. It would define, in enforceable law, what every child below six is entitled to. It would compel the health, education, and child development departments to function as one accountable system rather than parallel silos. It would build the financial and monitoring architecture to ensure that accountability follows the child, not the scheme.

An explicit recognition of early childhood care and education as a legally enforceable right would ensure that children like Nayana do not fall prey to programmatic inefficiencies but gain from a rights-enabling system for care, growth, and holistic development.

(The writer is the director of the public policy vertical of a legal firm)

Data centres must not weaken Karnataka's electricity compact

SHRIDHAR PRABHU

Karnataka's data-centre debate has entered a new phase. After the recent Cabinet reshuffle, it can no longer be treated as a one-department question of investment promotion. Energy, finance, IT-BT, Bengaluru planning, water and regulation must speak in one institutional voice. At the same time, Tata Power's applications before KERC for distribution licences across several districts have changed the background. The issue is not whether Karnataka should welcome it. It is whether the state can do so without weakening the public electricity compact.

Cloud computing, artificial intelligence, digital payments, e-governance and enterprise software require servers to be housed, cooled, powered, secured and connected. Data centres are the industrial architecture of the digital age. Unlike technology parks, they are resource-intensive facilities requiring land, assured water, uninterrupted electricity and grid redundancy. To call them merely "digital infrastructure" obscures their ecological and regulatory footprint.

Investment announcements are, therefore, not self-justifying. A State does not gain merely because capital enters its territory. The regulatory question is whether public costs are transparently priced. If a project becomes viable only through discounted water, concessional electricity, subsidised land, relaxed grid charges or migration from public tariffs, private investment may socialise risk while privatising returns.

The first constraint is water. Bengaluru's water crisis is structural, not episodic. The city faces recurring shortages, tanker dependence, groundwater stress and pressure on public supply. Estimates of water required per megawatt of data-centre capacity may vary, but the planning point is clear: these facilities need reliable, large-scale water support. Treated water helps only through assured collection, treatment, pipelines, metering, monitoring and enforceable reuse obligations.

The deeper issue is electricity. Karnataka's electricity supply companies (ESCOMs) are not ordinary vendors of power. They carry a statutory and social obligation to supply households, farmers, small businesses, public institutions and industries; maintain rural networks; manage agricultural loads; administer subsidy flows; and ensure universal access. This structure survives partly because commercial and industrial consumers pay higher tariffs, allowing agriculture and lower-end domestic categories to receive power at lower prices. Cross-subsidy is not an accounting accident. It is the electricity compact.

Karnataka's distribution geography makes this compact fragile. Bengaluru and adjoining industrial belts strengthen BESCOM's consumer mix. Other ESCOMs serve regions with different revenue profiles, agricultural loads and network costs. The exit or dilution of high-paying consumers is therefore not a local issue. It affects the financial architecture of supply across the state.

Tata Power's proposed entry brings this concern to the foreground. Parallel distribution is not objectionable merely because it is private. Competition can improve service if designed around equal obligations and cost-reflective regulation. But it cannot become cherry-picking by another name. If a new licensee secures profitable urban, industrial or data-centre consumers without equivalent universal service obligations, network duties, rural responsibilities and stranded-cost sharing, the public licensee will be left with social obligations and depleted revenue. That is not competition. It is regulatory arbitrage.

Nor can open access, captive procurement, deemed distribution or standby arrangements be treated as harmless technical devices. A data centre may buy private power when convenient, rely on the public grid when necessary and still avoid the cross-subsidy and additional-surcharge architecture meant to prevent stranded costs. Standby supply is not an idle switch. It requires generation readiness, transmission capacity, distribution infrastructure, balancing support, reserves and operational discipline. If charges are not fully cost-reflective, the ESCOM subsidises the very consumer that has partly exited its system.

This is why KERC, not investment summits or executive assurances, must occupy the centre of the debate. Tata Power's licence applications, data-centre load arrangements and any special supply model must be tested against cost causation, universal supply obligation, network duplication, tariff impact, cross-subsidy transition and stranded-cost protection. In electricity law, development cannot be measured only by megawatts contracted or crores announced. It must be measured by who pays, who is served and who bears the residual risk.

Renewable procurement claims also need discipline. A 100% renewable label does not make a 24x7 data centre load grid neutral. Unless the renewable supply is time-matched and backed by storage or equivalent balancing, the public grid remains responsible for reliability.

Karnataka should not enter a race of competitive concessions, either with neighbouring states or among power suppliers. If data centres are permitted, they must pay the full cost of grid access, standby support, balancing, transmission capacity, distribution infrastructure and reliability. Any private distribution or deemed distribution arrangement must be ring-fenced, transparent and prevented from becoming a route for migration of existing high-paying ESCOM consumers. The state needs digital infrastructure, AI capacity and private investment. But it needs financially viable DISCOMs, water security and a stable grid even more. The reshuffle gives the state an opportunity to replace departmental reactions with coordinated regulatory policy.

(The writer is a Bengaluru-based advocate)

The war in Iran has made one thing clear: Even the most powerful State in the world is not all that powerful when it decides to act alone

You can't be a superpower without allies

OONA A HATHAWAY

Even the most powerful State in the world is not all that powerful when it decides to go it alone. As the war in Iran appears to come to a fragile close, Americans are left to wonder why it has accomplished so little. How could a middle power like Iran — geopolitically isolated, economically on the ropes after years of sanctions and beset by widespread protests — face down a global superpower that spent $29 billion and counting to end up in a weaker position than it started?

Put simply: Because the United States attempted to essentially go it alone. Acting only with Israel, President Trump believed he could use the unparalleled might of the United States military to overwhelm Iran and force it into submission. The president did not seek approval from the United Nations Security Council, as required by the United Nations Charter, making the war illegal from the start and thus radioactive for many of America's traditional allies. He did not consult with partners in the region before starting a conflict that put them at direct risk. He was confident that if he dropped enough bombs, he would get what he wanted.

He was wrong. President Trump failed to understand that two can play at that game: Iran illegally closed the Strait of Hormuz by threatening to attack ships that entered. It launched drones and missiles against its neighbours. By the time President Trump decided to seek wider support to stop Tehran, it was too late to build a coalition. Even our NATO allies were unwilling to join his illegal war of choice, even though they, too, suffered from the crippling economic effects of Iran's response.

Indeed, nations long allied with the United States did not just refuse calls to assist in the war; they wanted nothing to do with it. Several states, including stalwart allies, closed their airspace and bases to US forces participating in the war effort. Spain denied both airspace access and the use of joint US-Spanish bases for operations tied to the Iran conflict. France refused overflight for planes carrying US military supplies to Israel. Italy and Switzerland restricted access, too.

Britain, which has long celebrated its "special relationship" with America, engaged in an agonised debate about whether to allow its bases to be used, finally deciding to let US forces rely on them only for "defensive" operations. "We are not getting involved in offensive action that the United States and Israel are taking," Prime Minister Keir Starmer said.

The war in Iran has made one thing clear: Even the most powerful State in the world is not all that powerful when it decides to act alone. This is a lesson with implications that extend far beyond the war in Iran. It cuts to the heart of the problem with the president's global strategy: Donald Trump wants to make America great again, but he fails to understand that what made America great was not its power to achieve its ends unilaterally but its singular ability to build international institutions that embodied its values and interests and that others wanted to join.

The United Nations is a case in point. The first draft of the UN Charter was written in the State Department. Under Secretary of State Sumner Welles spearheaded a working group that envisioned an international body that would help keep the peace after World War II so that the United States would not again have to send its soldiers to stop "savage and brutal forces seeking to subjugate the world." The United Nations embodied the values for which the United States fought — including the prohibition of territorial aggrandizement and the abandonment of the use of force. Today, however, the Trump administration has repeatedly waged war in violation of the charter the United States drafted, not just in Iran, but in Venezuela and with lethal boat strikes in the Caribbean.

NYT

The president's unilateral economic policies have also undermined the postwar Bretton Woods institutions and agreements that fuelled US global economic dominance in the postwar era.

These bodies not only reflected America's commitment to global free trade and economic liberalism, but also helped ensure the dollar's role as the world's reserve currency, which in turn has allowed the United States to borrow cheaply and leverage the dollar as a sanctions tool that no other country can match.

As the United States is stepping away from its historic role leading global institutions, China is stepping in. On his first day back in office, Trump ordered the US withdrawal from the World Health Organization, to which the United States had been the largest donor. China answered by pledging $500 million to the WHO over five years, positioning itself to replace the US as the organisation's top State donor. While the United States relinquishes its seats on several UN leadership bodies, China is eagerly seeking more. It is now the second-largest funder of the UN, behind the United States, and could soon seize the lead — and the influence that comes with it.

The deal Donald Trump just signed with Iran again demonstrates his preferences both to sideline allies and rely on force. Whereas the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action that the Obama administration negotiated to prevent Iran from obtaining a nuclear weapon — which Trump scrapped during his first term in office — was a joint agreement between Iran and the five permanent members of the UN Security Council plus Germany, the new deal is just between the United States and Iran. And it is backed by Trump's threat to return to bombing. If Iran doesn't follow through, he pledged, "We'll go right back to dropping bombs right smack in the middle of their head."

The profound damage done by President Trump's go-it-alone strategy is only beginning to be felt. The US allies, having learned that America cannot be trusted to abide by the core values of the international system it helped create, are now busy hedging against a mercurial United States. Nations are making trade agreements that do not include the US. They are building up their militaries so they no longer need the US. They are forming coalitions without the US.

It will take time for the full bill to come due. Many of our longtime allies are still highly dependent on us and still fearful of what President Trump might do if they stand up to him. But that will not always be true. The more states learn that the US no longer stands for the values it once championed, the more the country will be left to go it alone, even when it is no longer a choice to do so. President Trump may think America's power over other nations comes just from its might. What the war in Iran should teach him, and all of us, is that the US's power also comes from other nations believing its might is right.

(The writer teaches law and political science at Yale and is a nonresident scholar at the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace and the president of the American Society of International Law)

The New York Times

Towards clean sports

MALATHI RENATI

India has come a long way in sports, from the early days of widespread anabolic steroid use to now, with regulations in place. But the gap between rules and having clean sport is still considerable. The 1982 Asian Games in New Delhi were India's first brush with a major doping crisis. In hindsight, it was the tip of the iceberg. What lay beneath was a culture of impunity that persisted for decades.

Globally, that tipping point came in 1998, when the Tour de France was engulfed in a performance-enhancing drug scandal of unprecedented scale. The fallout prompted the formation of the World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA) in 1999, a rare instance of sport's governing bodies acting with some urgency.

Between 2003 and 2007, India signed the WADA Copenhagen Declaration and ratified the UNESCO International Convention Against Doping in Sport, thereby giving its anti-doping commitments international legal grounding. The National Anti-Doping Agency (NADA), established in 2005, operated largely on goodwill, dependent on the voluntary cooperation of National Sports Federations, with no statutory backing. The National Dope Testing Laboratory (NDTL), once accredited by WADA, reduced dependence on expensive foreign labs and enabled a surge in testing volumes. But the entire architecture rested more on ethics and integrity than enforceable law. It had no real teeth.

That gap became impossible to ignore in 2018, when a WADA investigation uncovered deep systemic discrepancies in NADA's functioning. Consequently, between 2019 and 2021, WADA suspended the NDTL's accreditation. All doping samples now had to be sent abroad, creating costly backlogs and logistical nightmares compounded further by the uncertainties of Covid-19, just as India's athletes were preparing for the Tokyo 2020 Olympics. The timing could not have been worse. India's global sporting footprint had grown significantly across disciplines, genders, and able-bodied and para-sport categories. The echo of this reputational damage was deafening.

This crisis finally forced legislative action. The National Anti-Doping Bill 2021 was introduced in the Lok Sabha, pushing for transparency and accountability. A year later, it became the National Anti-Doping Act 2022, India's first standalone anti-doping legislation. For the first time, doping violations were legally enforceable in India, independent of federation rules. Athletes gained formal rights to hearings and appeals. Though a start, it was still not fully aligned with international standards.

What followed was a flurry of activity that reflected India's growing ambitions as a sporting nation. A strengthened FSSAI-NADA-National Forensic Science University (NFSU) partnership built forensic foundations for future prosecution. NADA launched the 'Know Your Medicine' app in multiple regional languages, addressing the murky world of supplement contamination, a significant concern given that an estimated 10–30% of sports supplements in India's largely unregulated market are adulterated. Then, in August 2025, the National Anti-Doping Amendment Bill brought India into full WADA Code compliance for the first time, making all 11 Anti-Doping Rule Violations (ADRVs) legally binding and allowing athletes to appeal directly to the Court of Arbitration for Sport.

India has formally expressed interest in hosting the 2036 Olympics, a bid that rests as much on clean sport governance as on infrastructure. However, since 2024, India has ranked first globally in doping violations with high positivity rates, a statistic that invites multiple interpretations, including that more testing means more detection. But it also reflects a deeply entrenched problem. WADA has flagged India as a source country for performance-enhancing drug production, pointing to a billion-dollar supply chain with multiple complicit stakeholders. The newly proposed NADA Amendment Draft 2026 moves decisively in the right direction by extending accountability beyond athletes to coaches, trainers, supplement companies, medical practitioners, and organised syndicates, making offences criminal.

The economic and soft-power stakes are real. It is the taxpayers' money that funds TOPS, Khelo India, and SAI programmes. But more importantly, it is the athletes who pay the steepest price: many from economically vulnerable backgrounds, with limited education, unaware of the consequences, navigating a system that has historically favoured the well-connected.

Alongside punitive frameworks, India needs athlete education from the grassroots up, coach certification, nutrition literacy, and safe reporting channels. Digital tools like the 'Know Your Medicine' app point the way; scaling them all is the work ahead.

(The writer is Head of Policy School, The Takshashila Institution)

OUR PAGES OF HISTORY

50 YEARS AGO: JUNE 1976

Three-wheeler taxis to replace autos in City

Bangalore, June 22
The auto rickshaw, a distinctive feature of the transport system in Bangalore, is to be progressively phased out. It will be replaced in the coming years by the three-wheeler taxi, according to Chief Minister Devaraj Urs. Mr. Urs today visited the Sunrise Automobile Industries, Peenya, which has been licensed to manufacture "Badal" the three-wheeler passenger car. Mr. Urs said the Government would evolve a scheme by which nationalised banks would help the autorickshaw owners to buy the three-wheeler cars.

25 YEARS AGO: JUNE 2001

43 killed as train falls into river

Kadalundi (Kerala), June 22
At least 43 people were killed and 230 injured, many seriously, when eight bogies of Chennai-bound Mangalore Mail derailed over a bridge with four of them plunging into Kadalundi river, 10 kms from Kozhikode, today in the worst train accident in Kerala in recent memory. The dead included 33 men, eight women and two children, police said. The toll was expected to rise as rescuers were still engaged in extricating those trapped in the four coaches partially submerged in the river. The injured have been admitted to various hospitals.

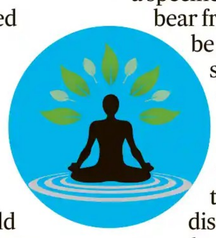
OASIS | SURENDRA PAI

Defeat is a beginning, not an end

Many people's minds shrink when they hear the word 'defeat'. They tremble with fear. Doubts haunt the mind as to whether our efforts have been wasted or whether we are not capable. But defeat is not the final goal; nor is it shame. Rather, it is an experience. It is just a stage that makes us stronger. It is a sign that reminds us that there is still a way to go from where we stand.

Everyone wants to win, but every time we come very close to victory and lose, it is natural that we are disappointed. In many situations, when we come close to victory and lose, many people give up the work they set out to achieve. Only a few people believe failure is not the end of life; it is a new beginning.

Thomas Alva Edison failed thousands of times in his experiment to invent the electric bulb. But each failure taught a lesson for the next attempt. After a thousand attempts, the bulb was invented with continuous effort. We should not forget that the bulb that can illuminate the world today is a success that came from the result of such failures.



It takes willpower and restraint to face defeat. How can everything be achieved in one attempt? A seed needs a specific time to grow into a tree and bear fruit. Until then, the seed must be nurtured. Otherwise, it is like seeing a hen that lays golden eggs every day and being greedy for getting dozens of golden eggs at once and cutting the hen's belly. There is a time for everything. Haste will distract us from our goal. But we should not stop trying. Things related to our lifestyle and healthy habits also affect our lives. Therefore, we should stay away from negative environments and people. Good thoughts, optimism, and the company of positive people inspire, calm, and strengthen the mind. Just as weeds growing near a rice field are pulled out, negative things become a barrier to our progress towards our goal, so we should stay away from them.

Finally, remember that once the expected victory is achieved as a result of continuous effort, we should not lose our minds and stop achieving under the illusion that victory has been achieved. Because just as defeat is not permanent, victory is also not permanent. Only a person who has the mindset to accept defeat and victory equally in life can live a peaceful life.

SC relaxes anonymisation rules in matrimonial case to resolve practical woes

Allows parties to obtain official documents with their identities for use before authorities

ASHISH TRIPATHI
NEW DELHI, DHNS

In a significant relief to litigants in a matrimonial dispute, the Supreme Court has modified its earlier directions on anonymisation, allowing parties to obtain decrees and official documents with their identities for use before competent authorities, while keeping public-domain records unchanged.

A bench of Justices Vikram Nath and V Mohana acknowledged that a fully redacted decree was creating genuine implementation difficulties.

The court has now permitted the preparation and issuance of order-sheets, memo of parties and the divorce decree incorporating the actual names and particulars of the parties, but only for limited official and statutory purposes.

The court had earlier directed anonymisation of the parties' identities in its order dated November 11, 2024.

Following the grant of divorce on March 20, 2025, the Registry prepared a fully redacted decree, which led to practical problems in its acceptance by various authorities.

Clarification sought

The applicant approached the court seeking clarification, arguing that the anonymised decree was proving to be a hurdle in completing necessary formalities.

The bench allowed the plea on April 27, 2026. Subsequently, the Registry sought further directions through an office report dated May 22, 2026.

"Considering the above, this court is of the view that the ends of justice would be served by modifying the earlier directions of anonymisation to a limited extent," the bench observed.

The court clarified that while the anonymised versions of the orders available in the public domain and judicial records shall remain unchanged, parties are entitled to receive non-redacted copies of the decree and related documents for official use.

The order strikes a careful balance between protecting the privacy of individuals involved in sensitive matrimonial litigation and ensuring that court decrees remain functional for administrative and legal compliance.

Legal observers see this as a pragmatic step that could ease difficulties faced by several litigants across similar cases.

Bihar's dreaded criminal with Rs 1.25L reward shot dead in UP

LUCKNOW, DHNS: A dreaded criminal wanted in connection with seven murders was gunned down in an 'encounter' with the Special Task Force (STF) of the Uttar Pradesh Police in Saharanpur district late on Sunday night.

According to sources, Lallan Singh alias Lallan, a resident of Samastipur district in Bihar, carried a cash reward of Rs 1.25 lakh on his head. He was shot when he allegedly fired at a police party after being asked to stop on the Sarsawa-Nakud Road in the district.

Lallan, who was riding a motorbike with an acquaintance, suffered serious injuries in the shoot-out and was taken to the Community Health Centre at Sarsawa, where doctors declared him dead. The other person managed to escape, taking advantage of the darkness, sources said.

A massive search operation has been launched to nab him, sources added.

Lallan was wanted in connection with the murder of seven people, including two sub-inspectors and a security guard. He was also wanted for committing robberies and looting a bank cash van and weapons.

Lallan had shot dead a police sub-inspector in Varanasi in 2022 and looted his service revolver.

2 ex-Reliance Finance CEOs held in bank fraud probe

SHEMIN JOY
NEW DELHI, DHNS

Former CEOs of Reliance Commercial Finance Limited (RCFL) and Reliance Home Finance Limited (RHFL) were arrested on Monday in connection with investigations into alleged diversion of loans to the tune of Rs 7,623 crore taken from multiple public sector banks, CBI said.

In the case involving RCFL, the CBI said the accused have caused a loss of Rs 4,097 crore to the 13 banks while the loss in RHFL case was Rs 3,526 crore taken from 10 banks. The arrested were identified as Devang Mody, who served as CEO of RCFL from April 2017 to December 2018, and Ravindra Sudhalkar, who was Executive Director and CEO of RHFL between October 2016 and March 2022. The CBI has so far held 5 persons in Reliance ADA Group cases.

Investigators claimed that Mody was a key decision-maker responsible for managing the operations of RCFL, and he approved loans to intermediary and conduit companies despite being aware that such lending was contrary to RBI guidelines and the sanction conditions governing borrowings from Public Sector Banks.

Sudhalkar managed the operations of RHFL and similarly approved loans to intermediary and conduit companies in a similar way, the CBI statement claimed.

"Probe revealed that the accused persons diverted funds borrowed by RCFL and RHFL to Reliance ADA Group companies, including Reliance Capital Ltd., Reliance Infrastructure Ltd. and Reliance Power Ltd., thereby causing combined wrongful loss Rs 7,623 crore to the lending banks and corresponding wrongful gain to themselves," the CBI said.

CBI has registered seven FIRs against RCom, RHFL, RCFL and RTL.

After Rs 7.8 crore Naresh Gujral fraud, MHA sounds alarm on 'Boss Scam'

NEW DELHI, DHNS: Beware of the 'Boss Scam'! Cyber criminals are targeting company executives by impersonating regulatory bodies or high-ranking officials, taking over their WhatsApp accounts and getting them to transfer funds to mule accounts.

An advisory issued by the MHA's Indian Cyber Crime Coordination Centre (I4C) said targets are sent malicious archive files via email or WhatsApp messages under the guise of urgent regulatory compliance.

Recently, former Rajya Sabha MP Naresh Gujral, son of former Prime Minister IK Gujral, was duped of Rs 7.8 crore after cyber fraudsters impersonated him on WhatsApp and tricked his company's Chief Financial Officer into transferring funds to multiple bank accounts.

In what it called a 'Boss Scam', the advisory said cyber criminals contact CEOs or high-ranking officials via email or WhatsApp, citing regulatory violations and seeking an immediate response. It said that in several instances, CEOs have forwarded such messages to CFOs.

When an official extracts and executes the file attached to the message or email on a device, the WhatsApp account is compromised. Using the account, fraudsters then instruct finance officials to transfer money to mule accounts.

"In alternative scenarios, if the attacker achieves complete device takeover, they covertly modify the device's contact list, saving a fraudulent, attacker-controlled phone number under the name of the 'CEO', and use that secondary number to instruct employees into transferring funds," it said.

The advisory said finance departments of companies should verify any requests for urgent financial transactions or account changes that are based solely on a WhatsApp text or email. Verification should be carried out through a direct phone call.

MISCELLANY

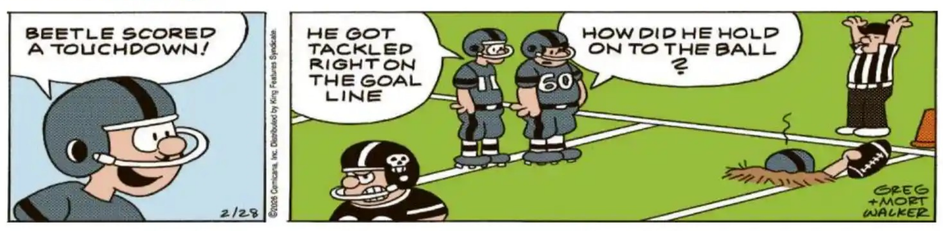
◆ COMICS ◆

Blondie

HONEY, I CAN'T DECIDE ON THESE OUTFITS... COULD YOU HELP ME?
SURE...THE ONE IN YOUR LEFT HAND!
BUT I HAVEN'T EVEN TRIED IT ON YET!
I KNOW
BUT I LIKE IT, AND IT DOESN'T LOOK AS EXPENSIVE AS THE OTHER ONE

Hagar The Horrible

Beetle Bailey



Peanuts

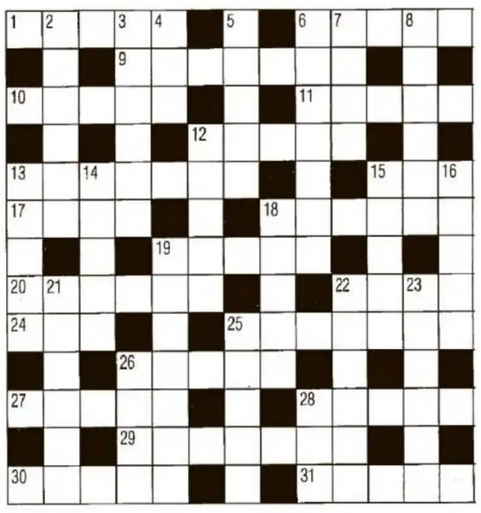
I HAVE EXCITING NEWS FOR YOU...
NORMALLY I BRING YOUR DINNER IN FROM THAT DIRECTION, RIGHT?
TONIGHT I'M BRINGING IT IN FROM THIS DIRECTION!
WHEE!!

Marvin

WOW, YOUR CUBICLE IS A MESS! I GUESS THAT'S BECAUSE YOU'RE IN THE PROCESS OF MOVING TO YOUR NEW CUBE, THOUGH
TAP TAP TAP
WAIT... I'M MOVING TO ANOTHER CUBICLE?!

CROSSWORD CHALLENGE 12444

CRYPTIC



ACROSS

1 Our love? Only for half a day (5)
6 Making a stink about being broke? (5)
9 Card game associated with bridge (7)
10 In Siena, it's known for its seed (5)
11 The pride of rugby? (5)
12 Not exactly cubic measure (5)
13 Would he be short of a title if he lost one? (7)
15 Supplied from the café down the road (3)
17 One island said to be eight (4)
18 Garment; possibly mink, with circles (6)
19 Be inclined to take the mislaid part on trust (5)
20 Immediately make a poor performance outside the theatre (6)
22 Clean up badly again (4)
24 One of eight in a row? (3)
25 Happy to see a learner relaxed after a poor start (7)
26 Like the change in your pocket (5)
27 Take off for an excursion to the heart of Hampshire (5)
28 Like one's rights in the use of Roman numerals (5)
29 Tiresome fellow with evidence of debt (7)
30 Was lazy, but maybe did about half a mile (5)
31 A rogue with taking ways (5)

DOWN

2 Weekly letter to a wandering nomad (6)
3 To push for an outcome (6)
4 Hard or soft, it's fishy (3)
5 Strong drink (5)
6 To canvass is thus perfectly legal (7)
7 Join by dint of a bit of tinkering? (4)
8 Much like Anson, he was an explorer (6)
12 One instrumental in taking up a collection? (5)
13 Byron character who has to exist by arranging pop (5)
14 Turning, it applies pressure round the ring (5)
15 In which to look sharp (5)
16 Lavished affection on a diminutive couple (5)
18 Eleanor, we hear, gives us a ring (5)
19 Puzzled as to why the umpire raised a finger? (7)
21 Maybe read about a race improperly abandoned (6)
22 Pretty average place with a church (6)
23 Live where soldiers have a team (6)
25 Port Authority in the clear (5)
26 Just the place to go with an oppo? (4)
28 Incision a golfer may do well to make (3)

ACROSS

1 Fragment (5)
6 Brazilian dance (5)
9 Thin on top (7)
10 Dizzy (5)
11 Snow leopard (5)
12 Filament (5)
13 Short axe (7)
15 Hair-styling product (3)
17 A way out (4)
18 Venerate (6)
19 Threshing implement (5)
20 Musical dramas (6)
22 Unclothed (4)
24 And not (3)
25 Take refuge (7)
26 Remarkably large (5)
27 Boy's name (5)
28 Room under the roof (5)
29 Refuse (7)
30 Ride a bike (5)
31 Tropical plant (5)

DOWN

2 Culminating point (6)
3 Kidnap (6)
4 Remuneration (3)
5 Confess (5)
6 Swimmer's breathing tube (7)
7 Fever (4)
8 Supporter (6)
12 Touches (5)
13 Wading bird (5)
14 Italian river (5)
15 Gain access to (3,2)
16 Prise (5)
18 Correct (5)
19 Exhaustion (7)
21 Badly (6)
22 Very happy or cheerful (6)
23 Area (6)
25 Insults deliberately (5)
26 Lass (4)
28 Donkey (3)

SOLUTIONS TO CROSSWORD 12443

CRYPTIC

ACROSS: 3, Which 8, Reg-Al 10, Ho.-p it 11, Bar 12, A-reas 13, Outrage 15, Sepia 18, Ike 19, De-duct 21, D-ealers 22, PO-or 23, Spin 24, E-ngages 26, The rag 29, MA-C 31, Sides 32, Re-gul-ar 34, Stour 35, La-X 36, Spree 37, Kap-OK 38, Trays.

DOWN: 1, Deb-U-t 2, Harrier 4, Hare 5, C-h-ases 6, H-osed 7, Mimi-C 9, Gat 12, Age-long 14, AKA 16, Pumps 17, At-one 19, Dreamer 20, Spots 21, Domed 23, Secula-R 24, Easter 25, Gag 27, Hippy 28, Reset 30, Sa-X-on 32, Ruby 33, Lap.

EASY

ACROSS: 3, Cheap 8, Set up 10, Valid 11, Lot 12, Widen 13, Popular 15, Nears 18, Rag19, Sullen 21, Neptune 22, Eros 23, Fair 24, Display 26, Lentil 29, Pat 31, Mason 32, Revenue 34, Anger 35, Fin 36, Dense 37, Dupes 38, Trade. DOWN: 1, Melon 2, Sutures 4, Hair 5, Avenue 6, Panel 7, Litre 9, Top 12, Wagtail 14, Lap 16, Allay 17, Snare 19, Snapper 20, Realm 21, Nouns 23, Fateful 24, Dinner 25, Lav 27, Eager 28, Toast 30, Tunes 32, Rend 33, Nip.

◆ SU-DO-KU-6939 ◆

	2					4	9	
		9		6				7
4	8				1			
	6			1	2			
2								1
			4	7			5	
			9				2	5
5				4		1		
	9	6					3	

hard

SOLUTION TO 6938

7	8	4	5	9	3	6	2	1
5	9	2	4	6	1	3	7	8
1	3	6	7	2	8	5	9	4
8	7	9	6	3	5	1	4	2
6	1	5	2	8	4	9	3	7
2	4	3	1	7	9	8	5	6
4	2	1	9	5	6	7	8	3
9	6	8	3	4	7	2	1	5
3	5	7	8	1	2	4	6	9

To solve the puzzle: To solve a su-do-ku puzzle, every digit from1 to 9 must appear in each of the nine vertical columns, in each of the nine horizontal rows, and in each of the nine boxes.

SCRABBLE™

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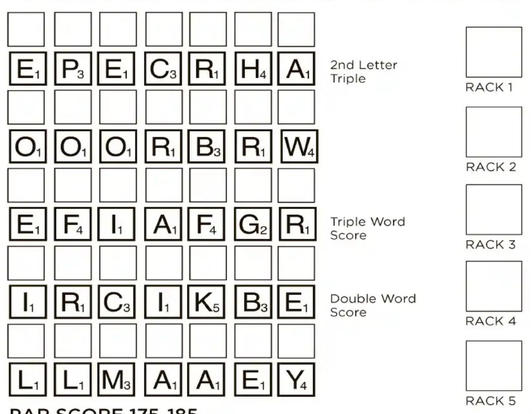
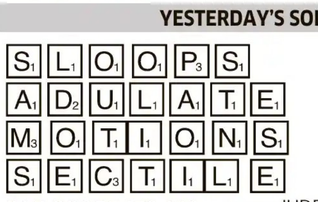


PAR SCORE 175-185
by JUDD

FIVE RACK TOTAL TIME LIMIT: 25 MIN

DIRECTIONS: Make a 2- to 7-letter word from the letters in each row. Add points of each word, using scoring directions at right. 7-letter words get 50-point bonus. "Blanks" used as any letter have no point value. All Judd's words are in the Collins English Dictionary. JUDD'S SOLUTION TOMORROW

YESTERDAY'S SOLUTION



PAR SCORE 130-140 JUDD'S TOTAL 199

JUMBLE

Unscramble these Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

SIJTO
SLOAS
CETSHK
AMFSOU

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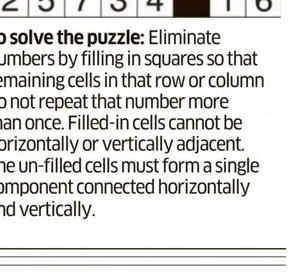
THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME
By David L. Hoyt and Jeff Knurek


This is what my scarf is made from.
That is so wild!
I can't believe we are able to see this all right here.
12/11
THE CATERPILLAR WENT THROUGH METAMORPHOSIS, AND EVERYTHING HAD GONE ---

Get the free JUST JUMBLE app • Follow us on Facebook

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

(Answers Tomorrow)

Yesterday's Jumbles: GLAZE TWEAK METHOD DEGREE
Answer: The firewood that was too wet to burn was — WATERLOGGED

HITORI-3393

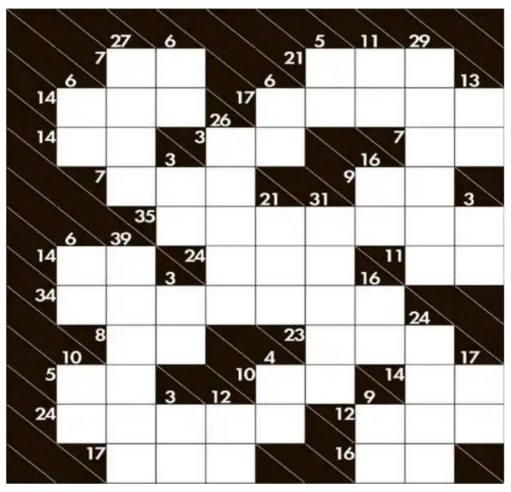
5	5	2	6	4	1	3	5
5	6	6	3	2	8	6	1
3	6	4	5	1	5	7	2
4	1	3	2	5	7	8	5
5	2	8	8	5	4	1	6
8	3	5	1	4	7	6	6
5	4	6	5	3	5	5	7
1	8	1	7	6	3	5	5

SOLUTION TO 3392

5	■	3	6	■	2	8	■
7	2	8	■	6	1	■	3
1	8	■	5	■	6	4	2
■	7	6	2	5	8	■	4
4	■	5	1	7	■	2	■
8	1	2	■	3	4	6	5
■	6	1	4	■	3	7	■
2	5	7	3	4	■	1	6

To solve the puzzle: Eliminate numbers by filling in squares so that remaining cells in that row or column do not repeat that number more than once. Filled-in cells cannot be horizontally or vertically adjacent. The un-filled cells must form a single component connected horizontally and vertically.

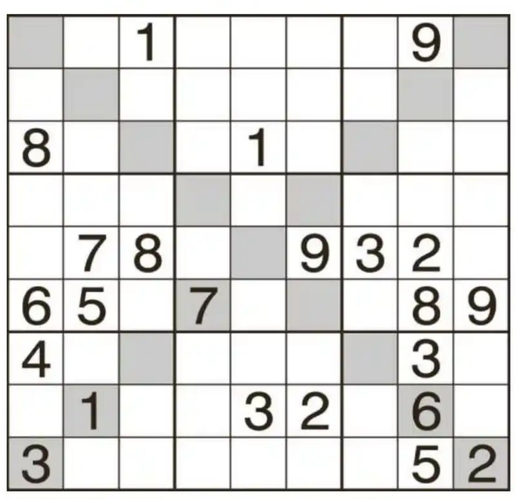
KAKURO- 3393



SOLUTION TO 3392

To solve the puzzle: Put a number from 1 through 9 in a cell. No zeros. A number in a cell separated by diagonal line tells the sum of numbers in consecutive cells at its right or downward. No number may appear more than once in consecutive cells.

SU DO KU X - 3955



SOLUTION TO 3954

8	9	2	7	4	1	3	5	6
3	4	1	2	6	5	8	7	9
5	6	7	8	9	3	1	2	4
6	7	8	1	3	2	9	4	5
4	2	9	6	5	8	7	1	3
1	3	5	4	7	9	2	6	8
2	1	3	5	8	4	6	9	7
7	8	4	9	2	6	5	3	1
9	5	6	3	1	7	4	8	2

To solve the puzzle: The objective is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column, each 3x3 box and each shaded diagonal line contains the same number only once.

UK Prime Ministers in the last 10 years (2016–2026)
(Britain is set to have its 7th prime minister in a decade)

David Cameron
May 2010 to July 2016

Theresa May
July 2016 to July 2019

Boris Johnson
July 2019 to September 2022

Liz Truss
September 2022 to October 2022

Rishi Sunak
October 2022 to July 2024

Keir Starmer
July 2024 to June 2026

LEADERSHIP CRISIS: Labour falls out of love with their leader's pragmatism

'Lack of vision', U-turns, scandal: British PM Keir Starmer finally bites the dust

WHY DID KEIR STARMER RESIGN?

- Poor approval ratings for him and Labour
- Row over Peter Mandelson's appointment as US ambassador
- Defeat in a key February by-election
- Heavy Labour losses in May elections
- Resignation of Cabinet ministers, including Defence Minister John Healey

RISE AND FALL

2020: Elected Labour leader

July 2024: Led Labour to a landslide election victory; became Prime Minister

2025: Approval ratings fell; Labour suffered setbacks

February 2026: Mandelson controversy reignited political pressure

May 2026: Heavy Labour losses in local elections

June 2026: Cabinet resignations and Burnham's rise weakened his position

22 June 2026: Announced resignation as Prime Minister

LONDON, REUTERS

Keir Starmer was once hailed as the leader who would bring pragmatism and stability to Britain after years of political chaos. But when he quit as prime minister on Monday, the very lack of ideology that helped propel him to power was widely seen as contributing to his downfall.

After leading Labour to power in 2024 with the biggest parliamentary majority in modern British history, Starmer focused on what he believed was achievable rather than setting out a clear vision for the country's future. More than 20 Labour insiders said many voters and party members came to see him as lacking conviction and direction.

Without what one senior Labour lawmaker called "a guiding light", Starmer was buffeted by competing party factions, vested interests and wary voters who increasingly viewed him as indecisive and robotic. Policies often unravelled, senior aides resigned or were sacked, and his government struggled to present a coherent narrative about how it would "change Britain". The 63-year-old increasingly relied on his wife, Victoria, for advice. After disastrous local election results in May triggered calls for his resignation, he initially resolved to fight on. However, support for his leadership had drained away. Unpopular over broken promises and policy U-turns, Starmer lost backing within his party, with even close allies privately urging him to make way.

Starmer's rise had been remarkable. After entering Parliament in 2015, he became Labour leader five years later following the party's worst election result since 1935 under Jeremy Corbyn. Drawing on his experience as Director of Public Prosecutions, he sought to modernise Labour, tackle antisemitism, restore financial stability and rebuild the party's credibility. Initially, the strategy worked. Labour won a commanding majority in 2024, although analysts noted the victory relied heavily on tactical voting and reflected Conservative collapse as much as Labour success. Pollster John Curtice remarked that it looked "more like an election the Conservatives lost than one Labour won".

Once in office, Starmer struggled to define and implement a clear agenda. Economic growth remained weak, illegal migration continued and pressures on the health service persisted. Despite achievements such as improving workers' rights and reducing waiting lists, he failed to convince many voters. Controversies over donations, policy reversals and the Peter Mandelson scandal further damaged his standing.

Starmer's lasting legacy may be the fracturing of Britain's traditional two-party system. As Labour's membership declined, Reform's surged past 2,70,000. The rise of Reform was the challenge Starmer called the "fight of our lives" — a fight he ultimately lost.

> "I have heard the answer from my parliamentary party to that question and I accept that answer with good grace."
> **Keir Starmer, Caretaker PM**

> "It marks the beginning of a transition process...I will put myself forward as part of this process."
> **Andy Burnham, MP for Makerfield**

He got India FTA over the line

LONDON, PTI

Keir Starmer, the human rights barrister elected Britain's Prime Minister with a landslide victory in July 2024, had pledged to get the much-anticipated Free Trade Agreement (FTA) with India over the line.

Just days before announcing his resignation at the steps of 10 Downing Street in London on Monday morning, he met Prime Minister Narendra Modi on the sidelines of the G7 Summit in France, where both leaders set July 15 as the date for the FTA to come into force.

Now, around the same time as the implementation of the India-UK Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement (CETA) – expected to significantly boost the 48 billion pounds bilateral trading relationship – the UK is expected to have a new leader in his place.

"It's not just a piece of paper, it's a launchpad for growth. With India set to be the third biggest economy in the world by 2028, and trade with them about to become quicker and cheaper, the opportunities waiting to be seized are unparalleled," Starmer said, during his visit to Mumbai last October.

The 63-year-old MP for Holborn and St Pancras in London was credited with achieving an impressive reversal of fortunes for Labour after the party's crushing election defeat in December 2019.

The other turnaround he worked hard on rebuilding was his party's connection with British Indians, alienated under former leader Jeremy Corbyn over a perceived anti-India stance on Kashmir.

As Prime Minister, his approach towards India was reflected in Labour's 2024 election manifesto, which committed to seeking a "new strategic partnership with India, including a free trade agreement, as well as deepening cooperation in areas like security, education, technology and climate change".

"I have a clear message for you all today: this is a changed Labour Party," he declared just before the general election.

Andy Burnham on course to be UK's next prime minister

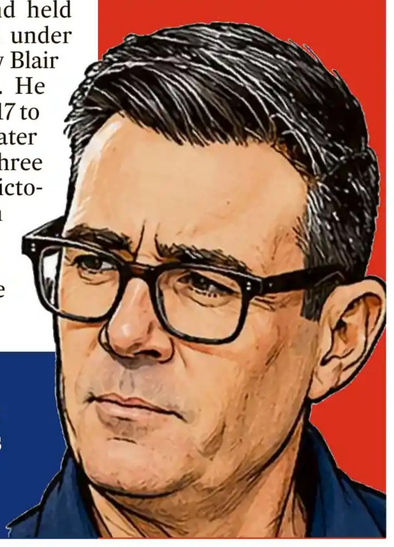
LONDON, AFP: The man who appears destined to be Britain's next Labour prime minister received a hero's welcome in parliament on Monday, after incumbent Keir Starmer stood announced his resignation.

Veteran politician Andy Burnham, fresh from his UK by-election victory last week, was sworn in as an MP.

Afterwards he greeted supporters in the Westminster Hall with a fist pump and snapped a selfie in front of a group of around 200 Labour colleagues. The newly-elected MP was clapped by fellow Labour lawmakers including Wes Streeting, a former minister seen until earlier Monday as his main rival for the premiership. One MP heckled him shouting "he's not the messiah". Seen as representing the Labour party's "soft left" and a pro-business socialist, Burnham has twice sought the party leadership, losing out to Ed Miliband in 2010 and Jeremy Corbyn in 2015. He first entered parliament in 2001, and held senior cabinet posts under prime ministers Tony Blair and Gordon Brown. He quit parliament in 2017 to run for mayor of Greater Manchester, where three successive election victories and his staunch defence of the region have earned him the nickname "King of the North".

ANDY BURNHAM

- Age: 56
- Elected to Parliament: 2001
- Health Secretary (2009–10) Contested Labour leadership in 2010 and 2015
- Mayor of Greater Manchester (2017–2026)
- Elected to Parliament: 2026



People jump in the Trocadero Fountain near the Eiffel Tower during a heatwave in Paris on Monday. AFP

18 die in France as temperatures shatter records

PARIS/MADRID/LONDON, REUTERS

EUROPE BAKES

- **Several cities in France and Spain recorded or approached record temperatures, while Britain could break its June temperature record as the heatwave continues.**
- Experts said climate change is making heatwaves and storms more severe, with Europe warming at more than twice the global average rate.

At least 18 people died in France, including two children left in a hot car, as a heatwave hung over Europe, smashing temperature records in several cities on Monday. As schools in France closed or modified timetables, forecasters in Britain predicted temperatures could break June records this week.

The temperature in Bordeaux, in France's western wine region, rose to 41.9 degrees Celsius (107.4 degrees Fahrenheit), breaking a record set last August. In Poitiers, central France, it reached 41.2 C, surpassing a previous high set in 1947.

In San Sebastian, in Spain's traditionally cooler north, temperatures were expected to reach 40 C, more than double the city's historic average for June 22, according to the Reuters Climate Monitor, which showed Europe as the continent furthest from its historic norm on Monday.

An April report by the World Meteorological Organization found that Europe is warming at more than twice the global rate. First responders were unable to resuscitate two children, aged two and four, who were found unconscious by their mother in the family car outside their home, a prosecutor in Carpentras, south-eastern France, said.

Three elderly people, aged between 80 and 95, died over the weekend in the Bordeaux region from health issues caused by the heatwave, local government official Sophie Brocas told France TV late on Sunday. "Swim only in places that are supervised," French Civil Safety Service spokesperson Jerome Boulanger said after 13 people were reported drowned between Sunday and Monday. Drowning deaths rose by 172% in France last year during heatwaves as swimmers sought relief from the heat.

The heatwave affecting large parts of Europe is known as an Omega block because it takes the shape of the Greek letter, with a bulge of hot air in the middle and cooler air on either side, said Clair Barnes, a research associate in extreme weather and climate at Imperial College London. "It's drawing warm air up from North Africa, from the Sahara, and that's why we have this really intense heat. It's very slow-moving and it means there's no wind or breeze for respite," she said.

Heatwaves and storms are being intensified by climate change, pushing temperatures higher and causing heavier rainfall, she added.

The Met Office, Britain's national weather forecaster, said on Monday that a four-day heatwave could push temperatures above 39 C in some places, easily breaking the June record of 35.6 C set in 1957 and matched in 1976.

US clears sale of support services for India's Apache copter

WASHINGTON, PTI: The US has formally notified the proposed sale of sustainment support services and related equipment for India's Apache helicopters and M777A2 Ultra-Light Howitzers at an estimated cost of USD 482.2 million.

The Defence Security Cooperation Agency (DSCA), which administers the Foreign Military Sales (FMS) programme of the US, issued the arms sales notification in the Federal Register on June 17.

On May 18, the Department of State informed the US Congress about the possible sale of services for Apache helicopters and M777A2 Ultra-Light Howitzers to India. India inducted the M777A2 Ultra-Light Howitzers, procured from the US under the Foreign Military Sales (FMS) route, to bolster its artillery capabilities, particularly in mountainous terrain.

The Indian Army also operates AH-64E Apache attack helicopters, regarded as among the world's most advanced combat helicopters, for precision-strike and battlefield-support missions. As per the notification, India has requested long-term sustainment support for its M777A2 Ultra-Light Howitzers.

"The following non-major defence equipment items will be included: ancillary items; spares; repair and return; training; technical assistance; field service representative; depot capability; and other related elements of logistics and programme support.

Talks with Iran set 'good foundation' for deal: US

High-level talks end, technical discussions continue

OBBUERGEN (SWITZERLAND), AP/PTI

Vice President JD Vance on Monday said his lengthy talks with senior Iranian officials in Switzerland had created a "good foundation for a successful final deal" as they seek a permanent end to the war that the US and Israel began in late February.

"The final deal is the house," Vance told reporters after initial talks with Iran's parliamentary speaker, Mohammad Bagher Qalibaf. "We set the foundation. We haven't built the house, but we've laid a successful foundation to get to a good place for the American people."

Vance and US officials claimed progress on multiple fronts, including the establishment of "mechanisms" to ensure the Strait of Hormuz, a vital waterway for global energy shipments, remains open and that a ceasefire holds in the fighting between Israel and Iran-backed Hezbollah militants in southern Lebanon.

Hezbollah and Israel went to war shortly after the outbreak of the wider conflict, with Hezbollah firing rockets and drones at civilian communities in northern Israel and Israel seizing large swathes of southern Lebanon. Iran has insisted that addressing the fighting in Lebanon is a critical component of any deal to end the wider conflict. Iran noted "major progress" in efforts to end the fighting in Lebanon and called it the first real test of the negotiations. The mediation effort in Switzerland began on Sunday and stretched into early Monday, and technical talks will continue this week.

President Donald Trump did not attend what was dubbed the "Lake Lucerne Summit", but his presence loomed large. The talks were jolted by statements from Trump, who, from thousands of miles away, made comments that offended the Iranians. Iranian state media said talks had paused. The talks later resumed. Vance pushed back against suggestions that Trump's threats complicated the talks. "No, they didn't throw a wrench in the system," Vance said. He added: "Yes, they did threaten to walk out, or at least there were social media threats that they would walk out. But we were negotiating well past one in the morning yesterday, so they didn't walk out."

Interim deal: US waives sanctions on Iranian oil

The US Treasury has issued a 60-day license waiving sanctions on Iranian oil as part of the interim agreement to end Iran war, AP/PTI reports from Obburgen (Switzerland). The license authorises the production, delivery and sale of Iranian oil. It will last through August 21. The license emerged on Monday as US Vice President JD Vance said his talks with Iranian officials in Switzerland created a "good foundation for a successful final deal."

US Vice President JD Vance speaks to journalists after the US and Iran held high-level talks at the Lake Lucerne Summit in Switzerland on Tuesday. AFP

Taiwan launches combat readiness drill

TAIPEI, AP/PTI: Taiwan kicked off a five-day series of military drills on Monday aimed at boosting the island's combat readiness in the event of a Chinese military attack.

In the city of Taoyuan, home to the island's largest international airport, tanks drove down city streets and highways, videos and photos of the exercise showed, as armoured vehicles from the Army's 269th Infantry Brigade conducted combat readiness patrols on Monday morning.

The Immediate Combat Readiness Exercises are meant to test how rapidly military units can deploy, especially in the face of a possible sudden escalation of Chinese grey-zone warfare.

Former Fed chief Greenspan dies

WASHINGTON, AP/PTI: Former US Fed Chairman Alan Greenspan died on Monday from complications of Parkinson's disease, his wife of 29 years, NBC News correspondent Andrea Mitchell, said. He was 100.

During his 18½ years at the helm of the Fed, Greenspan presided over a sustained era of American growth and prosperity, one that ultimately ended with devastating consequences in 2008, two years after he had left the central bank. He oversaw a breathtaking surge in stock prices and a 10-year economic boom that began in March 1991.

China hits back at US sanctions on tech giants

BEIJING, AP/PTI

China on Monday announced sanctions on 10 American military-related companies in response to a recent US move that bars some leading Chinese tech companies from defence contracts.

The Commerce Ministry said Chinese companies would be blocked from exporting "dual-use" items to the 10 companies, which include military drone makers and some involved in rare earth mining. Dual-use refers to goods that can have military as well as non-military applications.

The ministry said the export ban was intended both to safeguard China's national security and to respond to what it called the US government's "wrongful expansion of its so-called List of Chinese Military Companies".

Separately, the Finance Ministry said government entities would be prohibited from buying products from 46 American companies, including Lockheed Martin and Raytheon Missiles & Defence, the official Xinhua News Agency reported. Earlier this month, the US Department of Defence added several tech companies, including Alibaba and Baidu, to its list of firms that it says have links to the Chinese military. Baidu said the suggestion that it is a military company is "totally baseless".

The designation prevents the companies from obtaining US military contracts.

The Commerce Ministry said at the time that the American sanctions run counter to the consensus reached by Chinese leader Xi Jinping and US President Donald Trump during Trump's visit to China in May. In Monday's announcement, the ministry said companies or individuals in third countries are prohibited from transferring dual-use items from China to the sanctioned American firms.

Philippines school shooting claims three lives

MANILA, AP/PTI: Two young students opened fire at a high school in the central Philippines on Monday, killing three fellow students and wounding another seven, police said.

The suspects, aged 14 and 15, were armed with one pistol each. They were arrested. The suspects and the victims were students of San Jose National High School in Tacloban City, where the mid-morning shooting occurred, regional police chief Brig Gen Jason Capoy said.

An investigation was underway to determine the cause of the shooting at the government-run school, which has more than 1,500 students. Capoy said the suspects, who were close friends, stated during initial questioning that they had been bullied at school. He did not elaborate.

They have no criminal records, and it is not immediately clear where they obtained the pistols used in the attack. They managed to bring the guns onto the campus because there was only one guard on duty at multiple entrances and exits, Capoy said.

"The suspects barged into two rooms because after the shooting in the first, the children scampered and the suspects apparently ran after some victims into another room," Capoy told reporters.

Most of the dead and wounded were female students, he said.

Starmaker Clive Davis dies at 94

NEW YORK, AFP: Clive Davis, the music mastermind who championed some of the globe's biggest names, including Whitney Houston, Bruce Springsteen and Santana, died on Monday aged 94.

Clive Davis

An empathetic executive whose expertise transcended genres, he displayed an uncanny ability to spin talent into gold. Aretha Franklin once called him "the greatest record man." "Clive has the mind of a bank executive and the ears of a teenager," said Davis protege Barry Manilow.

Careers that secure the planet's future

VENKATESH RAGHAVENDRA

While the planet is being pulled and pushed by all kinds of forces, there are a whole bunch of career options for those who want to slow the disaster, reverse the damage, or even protect those who will be directly harmed by the negative impacts on Mother Earth.

One should not think of this as taking advantage of the misery that the planet is experiencing and will continue to experience. It is about pre-empting and staving off the damage. Or at least having the gratification of pursuing a career that makes the planet a better place for everyone.

While there are traditional degrees and programmes that have been around for decades — be it in agriculture, forestry, architecture, and the like — the current climate crisis and the need to address the assault on the planet have thrown up a whole array of options. The skill sets needed for such a career could come in different ways. It could be a certificate program layered on top of a traditional degree. Or it could be a very specific master's program like "law and environment". It could also be shadowing an experienced professional in the specific domain or interning at an organisation that could position you for a long-term career in these areas. An architect could specialise in designing green buildings. An urban planner can focus on or conduct a research project on sustainable cities. Traditional agriculture degree-holders can consider specialising in climate-resilient agricultural methods and techniques.

The realm of law and policy is an interesting area as new policies are getting formulated at various levels of government as we speak. The field of finance and accounting now has the added elements of climate finance and carbon accounting.

While technology and Artificial Intelligence are hot fields in the traditional sense, one can explore extensions of these fields through climate data science and AI-driven disaster prediction. Similarly, companies are leaning heavily into the ESG space — which stands for environmental, social and governance. The corporate world is keen on enhancing its accountability and burnishing its ESG credentials. This makes ESG specialists a much sought-after commodity.

Now, speaking of some of the traditional areas such as agriculture and energy — the sustainability angle thrown in gives an extra edge to any career professional or someone just entering the field. Sustainable agriculture and food security are in greater demand. As well as renewable energy and any specialisation in unconventional energy sources such as solar, wind, or geothermal energy. Water-related careers and hydrology are likely to be highly relevant going forward as the planet heats up and water scarcity, drought, and rainfall monitoring become both more important and more nuanced amid increasing variations in climate patterns.

As more and more of the human race rushes into urban areas, ensuring the livability of these cities is a skill in itself. Nurturing green cities and working towards urban sustainability requires a range of specialists.

Finally, there is the good old work with the communities across the country. Awareness-building and communication techniques to educate the masses about the planet and climate change are cross-cutting skills needed in pretty much every facet of society — government, the corporate world, and civil society. So, honing these skills means positioning oneself for an exciting career in green communication.

As the world juggles with one climate disaster after another, it is worth pondering career paths that not only sustain you as a professional but also sustain the only planet we have. You can have a meaningful livelihood with the additional joy of protecting this beautiful universe.

(The author is a global social entrepreneur)

POSH in workplaces: New rules, yet miles to go

There is a need to reset the understanding of the core obligation to provide a safe workplace, writes Smitha Venkatesh

It has been 13 years since an exclusive law to safeguard working women from workplace sexual harassment was passed in 2013. The Prevention of Sexual Harassment at the Workplace for Women Act (POSH) mandates that businesses with 10 or more employees have an impartial, quasi-judicial internal committee to prevent and inquire into complaints of sexual harassment and address redressal, all within the four walls of the organisation.

This is meant to follow the course of natural justice, upholding the confidentiality commitment to safeguard the reputations of the complainant and the organisation. However, instances of sexual harassment in workplaces are getting reported frequently, and nothing much seems to have changed with regard to a guaranteed safe workplace.

A common grievance expressed by employees has been the lack of awareness of the system in place within the organisation for making, receiving, and redressing complaints. The employers counter it, saying that there was a nominated internal committee for sexual harassment and that the organisational evidence shows the annual report has been duly submitted every year. This is a clear example of compliance being only on paper. Here, the act requires that a zero-tolerance sexual harassment policy be made available to all, including visitors — displayed in the organisation's reception area.

This is only one of the legal requirements. Understanding these must go hand in hand with the intention to make the workplace safe for all employees and visitors of the organisation. This requires a holistic approach, an understanding of the subject at hand, and a sense of safety. With this intention, the POSH Rules were amended in 2016 by changing the term 'Internal Complaint Committee' to 'Internal Committee,' thereby expanding the role of the committee as a whole.

The committee had previously been addressing written complaints from women against men in the organisation, which were very limited and reactive. Now, with the change of name to 'Internal Committee,' the committee is expected to be more proactive and alert to workplace sexual harassment, and to take notice of and inquire into verbal grievances and observations that are detrimental to the workplace safety of women.

How to be more proactive

Internal Committees are to conduct regular awareness sessions at least once a year for all employees, refresher sessions on the latest updates to legal requirements, and capacity-building training sessions for internal committee members to handle sensitive issues concerning workplace sexual harassment. Internal Committees are also empowered to recommend organisational procedures and policy changes that could help improve workplace safety.

The awareness sessions are most often conducted on an online learning platform in a self-paced format, followed by a quiz for assessment. In the context of sexual harassment, we are looking for a behavioural change. A physical, real-time interactive session makes a significant difference by breaking down barriers to employee inhibition, resulting in an empowering experience.

The role of the external member is very important. This subject-matter expert brings impartiality and up-to-date knowledge of the field, enhancing the internal committee's capacity. The act specifies that this external member be sensitive to and actively involved in women's causes.

The Internal Committee meets quarterly, regardless of complaints. These meetings are proactive, reinforcing the importance of the appointed members' active involvement and reminding them of the responsibilities expected of the internal committee.

She-Box made user-friendly

In the Supreme Court ruling in Aurelio vs. State of Goa & Ors., the landmark outcome was the revitalisation of the POSH complaints repository, namely the 'SHE-Box portal', which was relaunched by the Ministry of Women & Child Welfare. What was previously an electronic complaints portal has now been made mandatory for all government agencies, private businesses, and institutions to register themselves and their internal committees on the portal.

However, to make a vibrant, live portal, nodal officers at the state and district levels from the government side, as well as a nodal officer from every organisation, must be registered. These nodal officers would act as a bridge between the government and the employer, internal committee, and complainant, respectively. The nodal officers from the organisation's side are not part of the internal committee.

This initiative provides another means for the complainant to lodge their complaint when they are uncomfortable doing so with the internal committee in the organisation, or in organisations where awareness of the complaint mechanism has not been effectively communicated, and employees are unaware of the existence of the POSH system within the organisation. This makes compliance visible and no longer a whitewash.

POSH, which has been taken for granted, implemented half-heartedly, and misinterpreted as a reputational risk by the businesses, needs an overhaul with resetting the understanding of the core obligations to provide a safe workplace, keep relearning to adapt to new requirements and an emerging inclusive workplace, and continuously refresh to nurture a culture of inclusivity of the divergent workforce.

(The author is a management system consultant)

BULLETIN BOARD

Digital marketing and sales

AvinyaHQ Technologies is hiring a digital marketing and sales intern who can work from home. Students with knowledge of B2B Sales, Client Relationship Management (CRM), Content Marketing, Customer Acquisition, Digital Marketing, Email Marketing, Lead Generation, Market Analysis, Marketing Campaigns, Marketing Strategies, Market Research, and Sales Support can apply by July 18. The stipend is Rs 9,000-12,000 /month. Apply at: internshala.com/i/6e3d7e.

Graphic design & illustrator

Oktaku Kulture is hiring a graphic design/ illustration intern who can work from home. Students with knowledge of Adobe Illustrator, Adobe Photoshop, CorelDRAW, Generative AI Tools, and Procreate can apply by July 17. The stipend is Rs 5,000/month. Apply at: internshala.com/i/e669cb.

Content and social media marketing

Navabrava Technologies Private Limited is hiring a content and social media marketing intern in Bengaluru. Students with knowledge of content writing, Facebook Ads, Instagram Marketing and Social Media Marketing can apply by July 16. The stipend is Rs 12,000-15,000 /month. Apply at: internshala.com/i/f50412.

Cinematography

Yash Utsah Daduram Media is hiring a Cinematographer intern in Bengaluru. Students with videography knowledge can apply by July 16. The stipend is Rs 18,000/month. Apply at: internshala.com/i/e9184d.

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B.Tech. - Computer Science & Engineering (Specialisation in Quantum Computing)
B.Tech. - Computer Science & Engineering (Specialisation in AI & Data Engineering)
B.Tech. - Computer Science & Engineering (Specialisation in BioInformatics)
B.Tech. - Information Science and Engineering
B.Tech. - Information Science and Technology
M.Tech. - Computer Science & Engineering (Specialisation in Quantum Computing)
M.Tech. - Computer Science & Engineering (Specialisation in Software Engineering)

SCHOOL OF ENGINEERING
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B.Tech. - Electrical and Electronics Engineering
B.Tech. - Electronics and Communication Engineering
B.Tech. - Mechanical Engineering
B.Tech. - Petroleum Engineering
B.Tech. - VLSI
B.Tech. - Aerospace Engineering
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MBA (Digital Marketing)
MBA (Banking and Finance Management)
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Japan's MEXT scholarship offers fully funded higher education

Japan's prestigious MEXT (Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology) Scholarship has opened applications for the 2027 academic cycle, offering Indian students a chance to pursue fully funded Master's and PhD programmes at leading Japanese universities, including the University of Tokyo, Kyoto University, Osaka University and several other research institutions. The scholarship is administered by the Japanese government and aims to attract talented international students to pursue advanced research and higher education.

The scholarship covers full tuition and admission fees, a monthly stipend of ¥144,000 for Master's students and ¥145,000 for doctoral students, round-trip economy airfare, and support for settling in Japan. Research students undergoing preparatory studies receive a monthly stipend of ¥143,000. The scholarship is available across a wide range of disciplines, including engineering, artificial intelligence, robotics, biotechnology, medicine, economics, environmental sciences, humanities and social sciences.

Contrary to popular belief, MEXT does not mandate IELTS or TOEFL. However, applicants must satisfy the English-language requirements of their chosen university or department, and many institutions accept a Medium of Instruction certificate from the previous university in lieu of standardised test scores. Students can apply either through the Embassy of Japan in India or directly through the University Recommendation route, depending on the institution. Competition is intense as there is no fixed quota for Indian Research Scholarship applicants. Experts recommend identifying potential supervisors and preparing research plans well before applications open to improve selection chances. The next cycle will begin in April 2027. DHNS

The need to teach politics

Teaching politics in schools is about creating responsible citizens who can think, question, and contribute, writes Shahid Sulaiman

AI-GENERATED IMAGE, FOR REPRESENTATION ONLY

Politics is not something that exists only during elections or inside government buildings. It affects almost every part of our daily life: education, employment opportunities, healthcare, prices of essential items, public policies, and even the rights and responsibilities of citizens.

Still, many young people complete their education without getting a clear understanding of how the system around them actually works. This gap shows why introducing basic political education in schools has become an important need of today.

Teaching politics in schools does not mean encouraging students to support a particular political party, leader, or ideology. It simply means helping them understand the structure and functioning of a democratic country. Students should know the basics of the Constitution of India, how laws are created, how elections are conducted, the role of Parliament, and how different government institutions function. These are not just political topics; they are essential lessons about citizenship.

In recent times, several incidents have underscored the need for awareness among young citizens. Issues related to competitive examinations, including the NEET examination controversy and concerns raised about examination transparency, created discussions across the country. Many students expressed their concerns and demanded fairness, accountability, and a better system. Similar concerns related to examination management have also led students and parents to question how important decisions are made.

Such situations remind us that education is not only about studying subjects and passing exams. Students who understand the policies and decisions that affect their academic and professional futures can make changes to the system. When young people understand how institutions work, they can express their concerns responsibly and seek solutions rather than simply reacting with anger or confusion.

Today, social media has become a major source of information. While it helps people stay updated, it also spreads rumours, misinformation, and incomplete facts. Many people form strong opinions about social and political issues without understanding the complete situation. Political education can help students develop critical thinking. The aim should not be to teach students what to think, but to teach them how to think.

A politically aware student learns to verify facts, consider different opinions, and engage in healthy discussions. They understand that democracy is not limited to voting once every five years. It also includes being aware of social issues, understanding responsibilities, and participating positively as a citizen.

Grooming leaders

Another important issue is the quality of leadership in society. Sometimes, people with a limited understanding of public issues, or those facing serious allegations, manage to enter positions of power. This often happens because voters may lack sufficient awareness of the importance of their decisions. Choosing a leader should not depend only on emotions, caste, religion, popularity, or short-term benefits. It should depend on capability, honesty, and commitment towards society.

If students learn about governance and politics from a young age, they can become responsible voters in the future. They will learn to ask the right questions, understand public issues, and expect accountability from leaders. An informed citizen is one of the strongest foundations of a successful democracy.

At the same time, political education must be introduced carefully. Schools should never become places for political promotion or influence. Teachers should remain neutral and allow students to discuss different viewpoints. A classroom should be a place where students learn respect, communication, and the ability to understand different perspectives.

Students are already exposed to political and social discussions through television, the internet, and social media. Avoiding these topics completely leaves them without proper guidance. Instead of allowing young minds to learn from unreliable sources, schools can provide a balanced and factual understanding.

Many countries give importance to civic education because they know that democracy becomes stronger when citizens are informed. Development is not measured only by technology, buildings, or economic growth. True progress happens when people understand their rights, perform their duties, and contribute positively to society.

Recent events have shown that young people are not just observers; they are also affected by decisions made in society. Whether it is related to education policies, examinations, employment opportunities, or public welfare, students deserve to understand how these systems work. Awareness gives them the confidence to participate responsibly and contribute to positive change.

Teaching politics in schools is not about creating politicians. It is about creating responsible citizens who can think, question, and contribute. A strong nation requires people who are informed and aware.

In the end, political knowledge is not only for leaders but also for every citizen. If we want a better future, we must start by educating young minds about the system they live in and the role they can play in improving it.

(The author is an assistant professor at a Bengaluru-based university)

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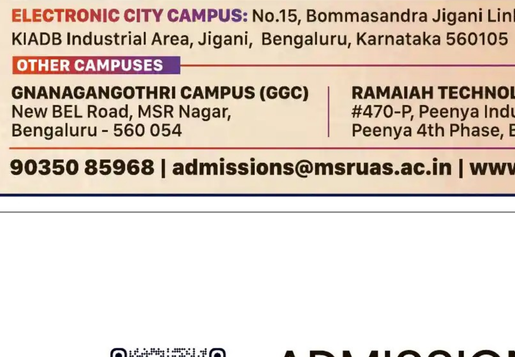

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Biz Bytes

Voda Idea raises Rs 1,182 crore from promoter

NEW DELHI, PTI: Debt-ridden telecom major Vodafone Idea has raised Rs 1,182 crore from promoter Aditya Birla Group through an issue of warrants, according to a stock exchange filing.

Vodafone Idea has pinned hope on its target to triple cashflow, as well as on new loans, tax refunds and fresh capital infusion from promoters to generate over Rs 1 lakh crore cash required in the next three years.

CBI arrests former CEOs of RCFL, RHFL

NEW DELHI, PTI: The CBI arrested former CEOs of Reliance Commercial Finance Limited (RCFL) and Reliance Home Finance Limited (RHFL) on Monday in connection with cases pertaining to an alleged fraud of Rs 7,623 crore in multiple PSBs), officials said. The CBI has arrested former RCFL director and CEO Devang Mody and former executive director and CEO of RHFL Ravindra Sudhalkar, they said.

"In RCFL case, the accused have caused a loss of Rs 4,097 crore to 13 PSBs, whereas in RHFL, the loss amount is Rs 3,526 crore to 10 PSBs," a CBI spokesperson said.

RIL shares end up over 1% as Jio files for IPO

NEW DELHI, PTI: Shares of Reliance Industries ended over 1% higher on Monday after its digital services arm Jio Platforms filed draft papers for what could become India's largest-ever IPO. The positive trend in the stock also came after Mukesh Ambani unveiled a roadmap for the company's next phase of growth spanning AI, satellite broadband, clean energy and consumer businesses at the company's 49th AGM on Friday.

Rupee falls 30 paise to close at 94.63 against $

MUMBAI, PTI: The rupee depreciated 30 paise to close at 94.63 against the US dollar on Monday. Forex traders said the rupee remained volatile as debt and deposit inflows supported the currency, while uncertainty over the Middle East peace deal and a stronger dollar weighed on it. Meanwhile, the dollar index, which gauges the greenback's strength against a basket of six currencies, was trading at 100.88, up 0.03%, amid hawkish Fed and the fragile US-Iran trade deal.

Tata Motors bags 3,400+ eCV orders

BENGALURU, DHNS: Homegrown commercial vehicles manufacturing giant Tata Motors has announced that it secured more than 3,400 electric commercial vehicle (eCV) orders across segments, marking a significant step in the mainstream adoption of electric mobility for freight and passenger transport in India. The orders comprise around 2,000 small commercial vehicles (SCVs) and pick-ups, nearly 900 trucks, and about 500 buses.

Kunal Shah to become new global CEO of WhatsApp

Replaces Will Cathcart; Meta invests Rs 8,550 crore in CRED

UMA KANNAN
BENGALURU, DHNS

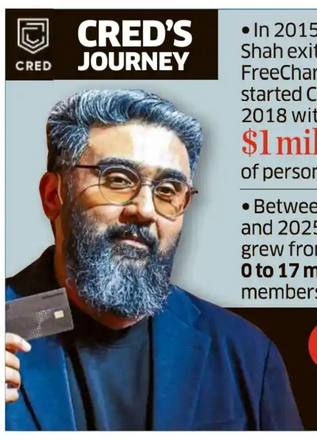
FinTech platform CRED Founder Kunal Shah will become the new global CEO of WhatsApp, replacing Will Cathcart. Shah will step away from his operating role as CEO, while retaining his personal shareholding in CRED.

The FinTech giant announced on Monday that it will raise Rs 8,550 crore ($900 million) in its Series H round, led by Facebook parent Meta, at a post-money valuation of Rs 43,239 crore ($4.5 billion) and a pre-money valuation of Rs 38,819 crore ($4.03 billion). Under the terms of the investment, Meta will join the CRED cap table as a minority investor and will not receive access to CRED customer information.

This funding is part of the platform's acceleration plans, structured through a combination of primary and secondary share purchases. It will help Meta deepen its footprint in the digital payments and financial services ecosystem in India.

Miten Sampat, who has driven strategy and finance for CRED since 2020, will assume the role of interim CEO with immediate effect.

CRED has built a platform that catalyses financial progress for creditworthy Indians, with products across payments, lending, insurance, wealth, and lifestyle that 1.7 crore members engage with every month. It processes over 40% of credit card bill payments in India, commanding significant volume in a category it created eight years ago. CRED's lending business has grown to Rs 24,000 crore in managed AUM for the top financial institutions in India.



CRED'S JOURNEY

- In 2015, Kunal Shah exited FreeCharge and started Cred in 2018 with **$1 million** of personal capital
- Between 2019 and 2025, Cred grew from **0 to 17 million** members
- During this period, it also raised **$900 million** from global investors and did 4 ESOP buybacks
- Scaled from **0 to $325M (Rs 3,200 crore)** in annual revenue across payments, lending, insurance, commerce, wealth, and credit cards
- CRED has built a platform that catalyses financial progress for creditworthy Indians, with its products

Shah announces the company's 5th ESOP buyback programme in 2026

"I started CRED in 2018 with a belief that creditworthiness deserves to be rewarded. In under eight years, that belief has turned into a new category: millions of members, Rs 3,200 crore in revenue, profitability, a full stack of licences and a strong brand. **KUNAL SHAH,** Founder, CRED

The Series H will fuel its plans to accelerate growth, build institutional muscle, and extend its leadership across categories.

"I started CRED in 2018 with a belief that creditworthiness deserves to be rewarded. In under eight years, that belief has turned into a new category: millions of members, Rs 3,200 crore ($325 million) in revenue, profitability, a full stack of licences and a strong brand. On this foundation, with additional capital and an extraordinarily talented team, CRED is poised to become an enduring institution for decades to come," Shah said.

In an X post, Shah mentioned that he is looking forward to working with Mark, Chris, and the leadership across Meta for the next step in WhatsApp's journey. He started CRED with $1 million of personal capital and scaled from 0 to $325 million (Rs 3,200 crore) in annual revenues across payments, lending, insurance, commerce, wealth and credit cards.

Sampat said, "1.7 crore creditworthy Indians trust CRED with improving their relationship with money. Behind this is a high-talent-density team that has consistently demonstrated ownership, mission orientation, and taste. We have a generational opportunity to build on Kunal's vision and compound consistently towards becoming a public company."

Cathcart, in a post on X, said, "WhatsApp is in the strongest position it's ever been — and that felt like the right moment to step back. Kunal Shah will be WhatsApp's next leader. He built CRED into one of India's most important technology companies".

'CRED would not be here without Kunal's incredible vision'

UMA KANNAN
BENGALURU, DHNS

In 2015, when Snapdeal acquired online recharge platform FreeCharge, founded by Kunal Shah, for about $400 million, it was considered as one of the largest deals and also the biggest in the startup space. After exiting FreeCharge, Shah spent time in both learning and investing, and in 2018, with $1 million personal capital, he launched CRED that rewards people for paying credit card bills on time.

Peak XV Partners' Rajan Anandan and Shailendra J Singh congratulated Shah on his incredible journey. Anandan said it was a very special day in the Indian startup ecosystem. Singh said that they were first investors with Kunal in both FreeCharge and CRED and have had a front row seat, watching Kunal create new categories. "CRED would not be here without Kunal's incredible vision and leadership. CRED is in a terrific spot today. With strong market share in core categories, incredible distribution and user love, significant revenue scale, a world class team working together for many years and a rock solid balance sheet. I am excited about the next phase of CRED, which will be about consistent and profitable compounding and an accelerated journey to IPO," he posted on X.

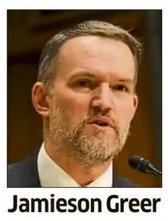
Meta CEO Mark Zuckerberg (in pic) said Kunal built CRED into one of India's most-important technology companies, and he brings the kind of builder mentality and global perspective that will serve him well in running the world's biggest messaging app.

Meta's $900 million minority investment is a booster in the company's plan to build an enduring institution with an eventful public listing. Meta will be a passive financial investor with no access to customer data.

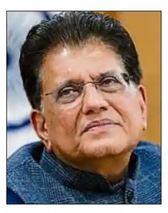
US' Greer visits India to advance trade talks

GYANENDRA KESHRI
NEW DELHI, DHNS

United States Trade Representative (USTR) Jamieson Greer is scheduled to hold negotiations with Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal and other senior officials for two days beginning Tuesday to take forward discussions on an interim trade deal for which the framework was announced in February.



Jamieson Greer



Piyush Goyal

"This week, Ambassador Jamieson Greer will travel to New Delhi, India, to meet with the Minister of Commerce and Industry of India, Piyush Goyal, and other senior Indian officials to discuss the historic United States-India Joint Statement and the Interim Agreement as part of the broader U.S.-India Bilateral Trade Agreement negotiations, launched by President Donald J. Trump and Prime Minister Narendra Modi on February 13, 2025," the office of the USTR said in a statement.

In a social media post, US Ambassador to India Sergio Gor said Greer and Goyal are scheduled to hold multiple sessions to advance the US-India trade deal.

The visit follows a meeting between Prime Minister Narendra Modi and US President Donald Trump on the sidelines of the G-7 meeting in France last week.

Following the trip to India, Greer is scheduled to travel to Tashkent, Uzbekistan, for trade talks. USTR noted in its statement that "Greer will conduct each of these meetings with his counterparts to discuss achieving fair, balanced, and reciprocal trade with the United States".

Global Trade Research Initiative (GTRI) Founder Ajay Srivastava said the legal foundation of the proposed India-US trade deal has largely collapsed.

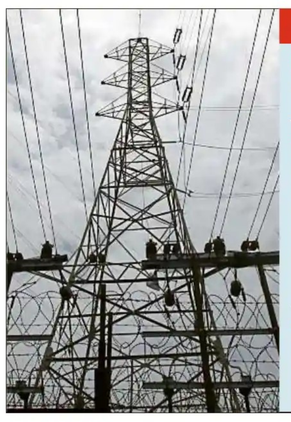
"The proposed BTA is increasingly neither balanced nor stable," said Srivastava, adding, "Washington wants India to make permanent commitments on market access for agriculture, energy, defence equipment, aircraft, digital services and advanced technologies, while also encouraging India to purchase up to $500 billion of American goods over five years, limit digital regulations and align more closely with US economic and security objectives."

In return, the main US concession was a reduction in reciprocal tariffs from 25% to 18%. That offer lost its legal foundation after the Supreme Court ruling of February 20, he remarked.

Core sector growth dips to 7-month low in May

Positive momentum in construction-linked sector

GYANENDRA KESHRI
NEW DELHI, DHNS



SECTOR SNAPSHOT

- Core sector growth slows to **0.5%** in May 2026, down from **1.8%** in April
- **Five** of eight core industries contracts, highlighting broad-based weakness across the sector
- Coal (**-9.3%**) and refinery products (**-8.7%**) record the steepest declines, dragging overall growth lower
- Electricity (**+8.7%**), cement (**+8.4%**) and steel (**+5.0%**) remains bright spots, reflecting resilient infra activity

Core infrastructure sector output growth dipped to a 7-month low of 0.5% in May, dragged down by sharp contraction in the energy sector, even as construction-related segments showed positive momentum, official data released on Monday showed.

The key infra sector, as measured by the Index of Eight Core Industries (ICI), had posted 1.8% growth in April. In May 2025, it stood at 1.2%.

The May numbers were the lowest since October 2025, when it posted a contraction of 0.1%. This is also the second worst in 21 months.

Five of the eight sectors recorded a decline in output during the month of May, when compared with the same month last year.

Coal output dipped by 9.3%, the steepest contraction among all. Refinery products, which has the highest weight in the index, posted 8.7% contraction in output, the sharpest decline in 42 months, partly reflecting the fallout of the West Asia crisis.

Crude oil production declined by 4.6%, while natural gas output dipped by 4.9% YoY during the month under review, as per data released by the Ministry of Commerce and Industry.

Fertiliser production in May was 0.9% lower, when compared with the same month last year. Despite the decline, fertiliser production in May was comparatively better than the previous two months.

The cumulative fertiliser output in April-May 2026 was 4.5% lower, when compared to the corresponding period of last year. However, strong momentum was witnessed in power and construction-linked sectors.

Electricity was the strongest performer, growing 8.7%, suggesting resilient power demand. Cement grew 8.4%, pointing to continued strength in construction and infrastructure activity. Steel sector grew by 5.0%, reinforcing the positive signal from infrastructure-linked sectors, SBI Research said in a note.

"Electricity recovered strongly in April and May 2026, helping keep the overall index positive," it said.

"The growth in electricity generation improved to a 19-month high of 8.7% in the month, aided by high temperatures as well as a favourable base; this ensured that overall core output growth remained in positive territory in the month," said Rahul Agrawal, Principal Economist, ICRA.

"Given the tepid performance of the core sector in May 2026, IIP growth is likely to weaken to 2-3% in the month, from 4.9% in April 2026," he said.

Study says online shopping market up 16% in Jan-May 2026

BENGALURU, DHNS: Online order growth in India has recorded a 16% rise YoY from January to May 2026, while Gross Merchandise Value (GMV) has shown even better progress at 18%. Through an analysis of more than 3 million online orders made between 2025 and 2026, global technology and performance marketing company Admitad found that the Average Order Value increased from $32 to $35, and there was a rise in the number of purchases made through mobile phones from 45% to 49%. Almost half of all the orders on Indian online stores are made through mobile phones.

The data shows that articles, videos, reviews, and even comparative analyses performed on content websites and in online media articles account for more than 20% of the total online purchases. More than 11% of customers have made their buying decisions after being influenced by content creators or social media communities. Affiliate stores, which are websites that aggregate products and deals into curated feeds for shoppers, attracted 22% of customers, according to the findings.

Over 71% of all transactions in the country occur through marketplaces. When it comes to products, the category that holds the lead is fashion, accounting for 24%, followed by home goods at 21% and electronics at 16%. Beauty & self-care and toys & hobbies account for 7%, automobiles, parts & accessories 5% and sports & entertainment at 4%.

The biggest increase was observed in mobile services in the first five months of this year as sales rose by 35% because of the increasing usage of smartphones. Furniture and home furnishings increased by 19%, while online sales of electronics grew by 18%.

"Affiliate marketing seems to be gaining traction as an important growth platform for brands in India. In 2026, the percentage increase of brands using affiliate marketing in their customer acquisition strategy was seen to have increased by 7%, highlighting the general realisation that performance-oriented marketing generates clear and predictable results," said Neha Kulwal, Managing Director, APAC MITGO.

Cashback offers drove 15% of buying decisions, while promo codes and coupons influenced a further 10%. Despite the broader shift towards content and community, financial incentives remain a powerful motivator for Indian online shoppers. Advertisements in mobile apps attracted over 8% of sales.

NMDC earmarks Rs 755 cr for capacity expansion in Karnataka

MAHESH KULKARNI
BENGALURU, DHNS

State-owned mining major NMDC Ltd has launched a Rs 755-crore expansion programme at its Donimalai Iron Ore Complex in Karnataka, marking its highest-ever annual investment in the state and a 25% increase over last year's spending, company sources said.

The investment aims to raise iron ore production capacity at Donimalai by 8.8% to 17 million tonnes in FY27. In FY26, it produced 15.63 million tonnes from the company's two Karnataka mining leases.

"We are awaiting environmental clearance for additional iron ore production in the state," sources told *DH*.

The Donimalai expansion forms part of NMDC's broader strategy to increase its iron ore production capacity to 100 million tonnes per annum by 2030. The company has set a production target of 60 million tonnes for FY27, up from more than 53 million tonnes in FY26. It has earmarked a capital expenditure of Rs 6,000 crore to achieve this target. In FY26, it spent Rs 3,300 crore.

As part of the Karnataka expansion, NMDC plans to deploy additional heavy mining equipment, install a screening plant and build a conveyor system to transport ore to the processing facility.

About half of the iron ore produced from NMDC's Karnataka operations is supplied to JSW Steel's plant at Toranagallu, while the remainder is sold through e-auctions, the sources said.

NMDC is also expanding capacities at its Kirandul and Bacheli mines in Chhattisgarh, as it works toward achieving 100 million tonnes of annual production by the end of the decade.

For FY27, NMDC expects production of around 21 million tonnes from Kirandul, 20.8 million tonnes from Bacheli, 17 million tonnes from Donimalai and 1.5 million tonnes from NMDC-CMDC Ltd, its joint venture in Chhattisgarh.

"These expansion initiatives will help us meet rising domestic demand, while maintaining our focus on operational efficiency, sustainability and long-term growth," the sources added.

SWEET SLUMP

India likely won't export sugar for years as El Nino, ethanol squeeze supply

MUMBAI, REUTERS

India, once the world's second-largest sugar exporter, is expected to have little surplus for export for at least three more seasons as El Nino weather conditions threaten cane production and rising ethanol demand squeezes supply.

The twin pressures are poised to keep millions of tonnes of sugar off the world market, tightening supplies for importers across Asia, Africa and the Middle East and supporting benchmark prices in London and New York.

A prolonged absence by India from export markets would remove a key balancing supplier as weather risks and biofuel policies reshape global sugar trade flows.

Interviews with over a dozen trade and industry executives, government sources and farmers show that lower cane availability and rising ethanol demand will leave little for exports for several years, prompting dealers at global houses to warn head offices of shrinking opportunities in India, trade sources said.

Sugar is politically sensitive in global top consumer India, where

sweets are highly popular and many poorer households rely on it as a cheap source of calories.

"Supplies are already tight in India, and now El Nino is emerging as a major risk," said Rahil Shaikh, managing director of MEIR Commodities India, a Mumbai-based trader.

"If rains disappoint as forecast, cane planting will suffer and this will keep India out of the sugar export market for at least three years, while Brazil and Thailand could also see their crops affected by El Nino."

Top exporter Brazil is also diverting more cane for ethanol. Thailand, another major exporter, could also have its output hit by El Nino-curtailed rains.

India exported 6.8 million metric tonnes of sugar annually on average in the five seasons through 2022-23 - about 10% of global shipments. This year, after exporting around 8,00,000 tonnes, India banned shipments until September 30, the end of the season.

Mills need government approval to export sugar, and New Delhi is likely to withhold export permissions each season rather than announce a multiyear ban, government and industry sources with knowledge of the matter said.

Last month, a top minister in PM Narendra Modi's government told mills to prioritise domestic availability and not lobby for exports, the sources said on condition of anonymity because the discussions were confidential.

India's Department of Food, Civil Supplies and Consumer Affairs did not respond to a request for comment on the prospects for exports or its restrictions on exports.

El Nino conditions are forecast to weaken India's monsoon rains this year to their lowest in 11 years.

Below-average rains, coupled with June precipitation running more than 40% below average, have prompted farmers to delay planting.

"I had planned to plant long-duration cane varieties in June, but since everyone is talking about lower rains, I decided to put that plan on hold," said Sambhaji Patil, who decided to grow soybeans instead on 2 acres (0.8 hectares) in Sangli district of the western state of Maharashtra.

Nursery owner Suraj Chavan said demand for cane seedlings had fallen sharply in recent weeks.

Farmers are likely to switch to less water-intensive crops, which could drag down cane acreage and availability in the 2027-28 season, said Prakash Naiknavare, managing director of the National Federation of Cooperative Sugar Factories.

Local authorities have started promoting alternative crops such as soybeans, pigeon peas and other pulse varieties in most sugar-growing regions and have restricted water supplies for irrigation.

India was expected to produce 30.95 million tonnes of sugar this season, but output is now forecast to reach 27.9 million tonnes.

Coastal Kings soar on Jose's ton

BENGALURU, DHNS

Nikin Jose smashed an unbeaten century as Coastal Kings Mangaluru coasted to a crushing eight-wicket win over Gulbarga Mystics in the DACSS Maharaja Trophy KSCA T20 tournament in Mysuru on Monday.

After dismissing Gulbarga for 177, thanks to a 3/40 show from veteran spinner Shreyas Gopal, it was Jose show thereafter.

The opener hammered 100 not out off just 47 balls, a knock studded with seven boundaries and eight sixes, to steer Mangaluru home in 16.3 overs. Mangaluru skipper Karun Nair hit a 36-ball 56.

In the day's earlier game, captain Aneeshwar Gautam produced a composed unbeaten half-century as Hubli Tigers registered a comprehensive seven-wicket victory over defending champions Mysore Warriors.

After their opening fixture against Mangaluru was washed out, the Tigers made an emphatic statement in their first completed game of the season. Chasing a modest target of 162, they remained in control throughout the innings and comfortably reached 162/3 with 15 balls to spare.

The chase got off to a shaky start when Preethesh Ingle was dismissed off just the second ball of the innings, caught by Lavish Kaushal without a run on board.

However, Mohammad Taha and Mayank Agarwal quickly steadied the innings, taking the attack to the Mysuru bowlers.

Coastal Kings Mangaluru's Nikin Jose scored the first century of this edition's Maharaja Trophy.

Brief scores: Mysore Warriors: 161 all out in 19.2 overs (Ritesh Bhatkal 46, S U Karthik 35, K P Karthikeya 27; Hardik Raj 3-25, L R Kumar 3-14, Vikas Gowda 2-38) lt to Hubli Tigers: 162/3 in 17.3 overs (Aneeshwar Gautam 60 n.o., Mohammad Taha 57; Madhav Bajaj 2-27).

Gulbarga Mystics: 177 all out in 19.5 overs (Prakhar Chaturvedi 25, Thippa Reddy 25, Manish Pandey 70; V Koushik 2-32, CA Karthik 2-15, Shreyas Gopal 3-40) lt to Coastal Kings Mangaluru: 181/2 in 16.3 overs (Nikin Jose 100 n.o., Karun Nair 56).

HOCKEY FIH PRO LEAGUE

India seek Pak scalp

Coach Fulton's troops take on arch-rivals in London-leg opener

LONDON, PTI

A thrilling win against Olympic champions Netherlands boosting its confidence, the Indian men's hockey team would look to carry forward the momentum when it takes on arch-rivals Pakistan in the opening match of the London leg of the FIH Pro League here on Tuesday.

It will also be the first time that India and Pakistan will lock horns against each other since the Asian Champions Trophy clash in Hulunbuir, China, in 2024 which India won 2-1, thanks to captain Harmanpreet Singh's brace.

The Indians won two matches out of four in Rotterdam. They beat hosts and world No.2 the Netherlands 3-2 on Sunday in the concluding match of the Rotterdam leg. India's other victory (3-1) came against reigning world champions and world no.5 Germany.

Harmanpreet Singh-led India go into the London leg of the FIH Pro League after a solid campaign in the Netherlands. PTI

LIVE 7PM STAR SPORTS SELECT

In the other two matches, India lost 2-3 against the Netherlands and 1-2 against Germany, all close results.

The Dutch leg turned out to be a valuable experience for the Indians, who are using this tournament to fine tune their grey areas ahead of this year's two big ticket events -- the FIH World Cup and the Asian Games, which is also an Olympic qualifier.

India are currently placed eighth in the nine-team Pro League standings, ahead of their next rival Pakistan, who are yet to log a point in the tournament. India will next take England on Thursday and then face Pakistan again on Friday in their second leg match.

With two wins and as many losses, the Indians have produced a much-improved show in the European leg so far as against the home leg of the tournament where they failed to secure a single win across four matches.

During the home leg, India conceded a massive 19 goals while scoring only five from four matches.

Considering that, India's chief coach Craig Fulton would be a lot more satisfied with the performances of his wards in the European leg, where they gave higher-ranked opponents a tough contest. But going into Tuesday's match, the Indians will have to control their emotions as any Indo-Pak contest is a high-voltage one with plenty of pride at stake, considering the ongoing political tensions between the two nations.

For coach Fulton, all these outings are a platform to test his resources and bench strength to build a well-oiled squad for the World Cup and the Asian Games.

But conceding late goals continue to be a problem area for India as, despite leading 3-1 against the Netherlands, they conceded a 59th minute goal to take the match closer.

India's strength has been penalty corner conversions with the likes of Harmanpreet, Jugraj Singh and Rajinder Singh at their disposal, but Fulton would be expecting more field strikes from his forwardline.

Tanishka claims superb hat-trick

BENGALURU, DHNS

Tanishka Kalabhairav claimed her third title from as many events to complete a hat-trick of wins on the concluding day of the LIC Cup Karnataka State-ranking table tennis tournament at the University of Mysore Gymnasium Hall in Mysuru on Sunday.

After winning the U-19 and U-17 finals, Tanishka prevailed over Mihika Udupa 12-10, 11-8, 11-3 in the summit clash to wear the U-15 crown.

Shriram Kiran, meanwhile, won the boys' under-15 title, beating Satwik M 11-9, 10-12, 12-10, 11-9. Suchet Dharennavar and Sakshya Santhosh clinched the boys' and girls' under-13 titles respectively.

Results (all finals): U-15 boys: Shriram Kiran bt Satwik M 11-9, 10-12, 12-10, 11-9.
Semifinals: Shriram bt Siddhanth M 11-5, 5-11, 11-13, 11-6, 14-12; Satwik bt Arnav Mithun 11-8, 11-9, 11-5.
U-13 boys: Suchet Dharennavar bt Sharvil Karambelkar 11-8, 11-7, 11-3.
Semifinals: Sharvil bt Arnav Mithun 11-4, 6-11, 11-9, 13-11; Suchet bt Ankush Baliga 9-11, 13-11, 11-7, 11-8.
U-15 girls: Tanishka Kalabhairav bt Mihika Udupa 12-10, 11-8, 11-3
Semifinals: Tanishka bt Sakshya Santhosh 17-15, 11-7, 12-10; Mihika bt Yukta Harsha 11-8, 11-5, 11-9.
U-13 girls: Sakshya Santhosh bt Vibha Tavakari 11-8, 11-7, 6-11, 6-11, 11-6.

Winners at the LIC Cup Karnataka State-ranking Table Tennis tournament at the University of Mysore Gymnasium Hall in Mysuru. (From left): Tanishka Kalabhairav (U-15 girls), Ela Hegde (U-11 girls), Sakshya Santhosh (U-13 girls), Krishna Moudgalya (U-11 boys), Suchet Dharennavar (U-13 boys).

Rovers FC march into quarters

BENGALURU, DHNS: Rovers FC marched into the quarterfinals after defeating Konkan FC 5-4 via tie-break in a Group 10 game in the BDFA C Division League here at the Bangalore Football Stadium on Monday.

LOCAL FOOTBALL

Results: Group 9: Active Union FC: 1 (Topu Nada 25th) drew with La Masia FC: 1 (Velank 42nd).
Group 10: Vinayaka FC: 4 (Mohammed Tayeeb Sharif 31st, Sandeep SN 39th, C S Arjun 41st, Pavan Prasad R 51st) bt Bangalore Boys FC: 1 (Mohammad Vasim Ansari 14th); Bangalore Mars FC: 3 (Chetan S 6th, Rishanth 27th, Prashanth V 51st) bt -bt- Jupiter FC: 1 (Chinnappa Jayaseelan 22nd).
Pre-quarterfinal: Rovers FC: 5 bt Konkan FC: 4 via tie-break, FT: 0-0.
Group 12: Excelsiors FC: 2 (Rupam Samadoer 16th, Mohan Kumar B 35th) bt Bagalkunte FC: 0.
Group 13: Sunesa FC: 2 (Shanmugam 19th, Vinod Prem Sagar Korrapti 23rd) bt Postal Dept FC: 1 (Janardhan V 23rd).

B'luru's Chiranth creates history in Japan

BENGALURU, DHNS: Chiranth Vishwanath from Bengaluru scripted history when he became the first Indian to win a race at the iconic Mobility Resort Motegi racetrack in Japan recently as he finished the round 3 of the FIM Asia Road Racing Championship with a victory and a fourth-place finish in the TVS Asia Championship category.

Having qualified fourth after a series of fastest laps in the official practice session, 18-year-old Chiranth, astride a TVS Apache RR 310, set a hot pace in Race-1 to lead from the start.

Chiranth Vishwanath

However, in the fifth of the eight-lap race, he fell to P5 following a contact with another rider. But he recovered and overtook three riders in the last lap to post a fine win, his first in the championship. In Race-2, Chiranth was in P2 until the last lap when he had another contact with fellow-rider which cost him two spots and he eventually finished fourth.

Reflecting on the weekend, Chiranth said: "It was a tough but good weekend for me. I had good pace through Race-1 and though I lost position, I kept my cool to eventually win the race after I moved past three front-runners in the last lap.

Adhrit, Arushi clinch titles

BENGALURU, DHNS

Adhrit Das Purkayastha of Bengaluru Rural and Arushi Severin Helen D Silva of Dakshina Kannada emerged champions in the Karnataka State Under-19 open and girls chess championships, which concluded in Kalaburagi on Sunday.

Adhrit secured the Open title with 7.5 points from nine rounds. Venkata Naga Karthik Malladi of Bengaluru Urban finished runner-up with seven points while top seed Akshat Sureka of Bengaluru took third place on tie-breaks after also ending on seven points. Ishaan Bhansali of Bengaluru finished fourth.

Podium finishers at the Karnataka State U-19 Chess Championships pose with their spoils.

Results: Open: Adhrit Das Purkayastha (Bengaluru Rural) 7.5 pts, 1; Venkata Naga KM (Bengaluru Urban) 7, 2. Akshat Sureka (Bengaluru) 7 points, 3.
Girls: Arushi Severin Helen D Silva (Dakshina Kannada) 8 pts, 1; Deeptha Srinivas (Bengaluru) 7.5, 2; Anagha KGR (Mysuru) 7, 3.

BENGALURU WEST CITY CORPORATION
Office of the Executive Engineer, Govindarajanagar Division, 2nd Floor, Shakthi Soudha, 13th Cross road. 4th 'B' Main Road, M.C. Layout, Vijayanagara, Bangalore-560040.
Ph: 080-22975725, E-Mail ID: eegrn2020@gmail.com

No: BWCC/EE(GRN)/TN/GL/05/2026-27 **Date: 22.06.2026**

SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION
(Through GOK e-Procurement Portal Only)

The Executive Engineer (Govindarajanagara), BWCC, Bengaluru on behalf of the Commissioner, BWCC invites competitive bids from reputed firm/ Agencies for "Rate Contract for Removal of Unauthorized structures and deviated portion of building in Govindarajanagara division" on Rate Contract Basis. Other details can be seen in the RFP documents. The bid documents, including the request for proposal (RFP) and draft agreement, can be downloaded from the Government of Karnataka Public Procurement Portal website **https://kppp.karnataka.gov** from **25-06-2026** onwards. All notifications, changes, and amendmets to the bid documents will be uploaded only on the KPP portal.

Calendar of Events : 1. Availability of tender document in KPP portal from: **25-06-2026. 2.** Last date for submission of Tenders : **06-07-2026 upto 16:00 Hours. 3.** Date of opening of Financial Bid : **07-07-2026 @ 16:30 Hours. 4.** Further Details can be obtained from the office of the Executive Engineer, Govindarajanagara Division, 2nd Floor, Shakthi Soudha 13th Cross Road, 4th B Main Road, M.C.Layout, Vijayanagara Bangalore-560040 on all working Days between **3.00 pm to 5.00 p.m.**

Sd/- Executive Engineer, Govindarajanagar Division, Zone-2, BWCC

KARNATAKA SILK INDUSTRIES CORPORATION LIMITED
(A Government of Karnataka Enterprise)
3rd & 4th Floors, Public Utility Building, M.G. Road, Bengaluru - 560 001
Ph: 080-25586550/25586402, Email: info@ksicsilk.com
No. KSIC/PR/ITEMS-WORKS/2026-27 Date: 15.06.2026

NOTIFICATION (Through KPP Portal only)

Tenders are invited through KPP Portal from Manufacturers/ Dealers for the below detailed items & work:

Sl. No.	Particulars	EMD (In Rs.)	Last Date for Uploading the Tender	Technical Bids Opening Date
1	Tender for Procurement of Polyurethane Injection Moulding Temple Roller 1000 Nos LH (Pink Colour) and 1000 Nos. RH (Green Colour) required for KSIC, SWF Mysuru	8,400	21.07.2026 by 03.00 PM	22.07.2026 at 03.30 PM
2	Tender for Merger of Karnataka Silk Marketing Board Limited (KSMB) with Karnataka Silk Industries Corporation Limited (KSIC)	20,000	21.07.2026 by 03.00 PM	22.07.2026 at 03.30 PM
3	Re-Tender for Supply, Installation and commissioning of Two Nos. Anti Theft Machine Alarm Systems for KSIC Showrooms	10,400	02.07.2026 by 03.00 PM	03.07.2026 at 03.30 PM

Tender Documents, details of the Notification, schedule/ terms & conditions can be downloaded from **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** Further details can be had from the office of the Undersigned during working hours or KPP Portal help desk -080-46010000 and 080-68948777.

Sd/- GENERAL MANAGER (Proc)
DIPR/DD-CP/1103/KSMCA/2026-27

Government of Karnataka
The Executive Engineer, Public Works Department, Hassan Division, Hassan.
No. EE/PWD/HSN/JE-2/2026-27/ DATED: 19.06.2026.

SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION NO: 16/2026-27, Dated:19.06.2026

Tender is invited by the Public Works Department on behalf of the Governor of Karnataka, as per Karnataka Transparency in Public Procurement Act 1999 and Rules 2000, Standard Tender Document KW-4 from the eligible registered Contractors of Karnataka PWD. Tender (Call-2) invited through E-Procurement for 01 Work in Hassan division. The amount put to tender is Rs.159.75 lakhs. Last date of Receipt of tender is 02.07.2026 till 4.00 P.M. For more details visit https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in or contact this office through Phone No. 08172-268437 or in person during office hours.

Sd/- Executive Engineer, PWD, Hassan Division, Hassan.
ವಾಸಾಸಂಇ/ಹಿಸನಿ/ಹಾಸನ/262/ಕೆಎಸ್ಎಂಸಿಎ/2026-27

ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ನೀರಾವರಿ ನಿಗಮ ನಿಯಮಿತ
(ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರ್ಕಾರದ ಉದ್ಯಮ)
ಕಾರ್ಯಪಾಲಕ ಇಂಜಿನಿಯರ್‌ರವರ ಕಛೇರಿ, ಕನೀನಿನಿ, ನಂ.5, ಭದ್ರಾ ನಾಲಾ ವಿಭಾಗ, ದಾವಣಗೆರೆ. ಫೋ: 08192-264669
ಇ-ಮೇಲ್: eebcddvg@yahoo.co.in
ಸಂ: ಕಾ.ಇಂ/ಕ.ನೀ.ನಿ.ನಿ/ಭ.ನಾ.ವಿ.5/ದಾ/ಪಿ.ಬಿ/2700-4701/2026-27/605
ದಿನಾಂಕ:22.06.2026.

ಅಲ್ಪಾವಧಿ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ

ಉಲ್ಲೇಖ:- **1) EE/KNNL/BCD-5/DVG/PB-4/4701Bhadra/2026-27/603 Date: 22.06.2026.**
2) EE/KNNL/No.5/BCD/DVG/PB-3/2700-Man power Supply/2026-27/604 Date:22.06.2026

ವ್ಯವಸ್ಥಾಪಕ ನಿರ್ದೇಶಕರು, ಕ.ನೀ.ನಿ.ನಿ, ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು ಇವರ ಪರವಾಗಿ ಕಾರ್ಯಪಾಲಕ ಇಂಜಿನಿಯರ್, ಕ.ನೀ.ನಿ.ನಿ, ನಂ.5 ಭದ್ರಾ ನಾಲಾ ವಿಭಾಗ, ದಾವಣಗೆರೆ ರವರು, ಉಲ್ಲೇಖಿತ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಲೆಕ್ಕ ಶೀರ್ಷಿಕೆ 2700 ಭದ್ರಾ ಅಡಿಯಲ್ಲಿನ ಮಾನವ ಸಂಪನ್ಮೂಲ ಸರಬರಾಜು ಮಾಡುವ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳಿಗೆ ಹಾಗೂ ಲೆಕ್ಕ ಶೀರ್ಷಿಕೆ 4701 Bhadra ರಡಿಯಲ್ಲಿನ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳಿಗೆ ದ್ವಿ ಲಕೋಟೆ ಪದ್ಧತಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಕೆಪಿಪಿಪಿ-ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ ಮುಖಾಂತರ ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ನ್ನು ಅಹ್ವಾನಿಸಿದ್ದು, ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ಗಿಟ್ಟ ಮೊತ್ತ ರೂ.13.51 ಲಕ್ಷಗಳಿಂದ ರೂ.421.37 ಲಕ್ಷಗಳವರೆಗೆ ಇರುತ್ತದೆ. ಅರ್ಹ ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆದಾರರಿಂದ ಸರ್ವಿಸ್ ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ಗಳನ್ನು ಹಾಗೂ ಶೇಕಡವಾರು ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ಗಳನ್ನು ಕೆಪಿಪಿಪಿ-ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ ವೆಬ್‌ಸೈಟ್ (https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in) ಮುಖಾಂತ ಈ ಕೆಳಕಂಡಂತೆ ದಿನಾಂಕದ ಒಳಗಾಗಿ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಬಹುದಾಗಿರುತ್ತದೆ.

(1) KNNL/2026-27/SE0434call3 ದಿನಾಂಕ: 22.06.2026 ರಿಂದ ಡೌನಲೋಡ್ ಮಾಡಿಕೊಂಡು ದಿನಾಂಕ: 01.07.2026 ರ ಸಂಜೆ 5.00 ಘಂಟೆವರೆಗೆ, ಪ್ರೀ ಬಿಡ್ ದಿನಾಂಕ: 25.06.26 ಬೆಳ್ಳಿಗ್ಗೆ 11.00 ಘಂಟೆಗೆ ಈ ಕೆಳಗೆ ಸಹಿ ಮಾಡಿದ ಕಛೇರಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ನೆರವೇರಿಸಲಾಗುವುದು, ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಕುರಿತು ಸ್ಪಷ್ಟೀಕರಣಕ್ಕೆ ದಿನಾಂಕ: 25.06.2026 ರಂದು 4.30 ಘಂಟೆವರೆಗೆ, ತಾಂತ್ರಿಕ ಬಿಡ್‌ನ್ನು ತೆರೆಯುವ ದಿನಾಂಕ: 02.07.2026 ರಂದು ಸಂಜೆ 5.10 ಘಂಟೆಗೆ ತೆರೆಯಲಾಗುವುದು.

(2) 3711call4, 3709call4, 3707call4, 3708call4, 3706call4, 3712call4, 4293call2, 4294call2, 4295call2, 3716call3, 4292, 4359call2 ಒಟ್ಟು ಕಾಮಗಾರಿ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ :- 12 ಸಂಖ್ಯೆಗಳು

ದಿನಾಂಕ: 22.06.2026 ರಿಂದ ಡೌನಲೋಡ್ ಮಾಡಿಕೊಂಡು ದಿನಾಂಕ: 06.07..2026 ರ ಸಂಜೆ 5.00 ಘಂಟೆವರೆಗೆ, ಪ್ರೀ ಬಿಡ್ ದಿನಾಂಕ: 01.07.26 ಬೆಳ್ಳಿಗ್ಗೆ 11.00ಘಂಟೆಗೆ ಈ ಕೆಳಗೆ ಸಹಿ ಮಾಡಿದ ಕಛೇರಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ನೆರವೇರಿಸಲಾಗುವ್ವದು.

ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಕುರಿತು ಸ್ಪಷ್ಟೀಕರಣಕ್ಕೆ ದಿನಾಂಕ: 01.07.2026 ರಂದು 4.30 ಘಂಟೆವರೆಗೆ ತಾಂತ್ರಿಕ ಬಿಡ್‌ನ್ನು ತೆರೆಯುವ ದಿನಾಂಕ: 07.07.2026 ರಂದು ಸಂಜೆ 5.10 ಘಂಟೆಗೆ ತೆರೆಯಲಾಗುವುದು.

ಯಾವುದೇ ಕಾರಣ ನೀಡದೆ ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ಗಳನ್ನು ಮುಂದೂಡುವ, ಅಂಗಿಕರೀಸುವ ಅಥವಾ ತಿರಸ್ಕರಿಸುವ ಹಕ್ಕನ್ನು ಕೆಳಗೆ ಸಹಿ ಮಾಡಿರುವ ಅಧಿಕಾರಿಗಳು ಕಾಯ್ದಿರಿಸಿಕೊಂಡಿರುತ್ತಾರೆ. ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ಮಾಹಿತಿಗಾಗಿ ಕೆಪಿಪಿಪಿ-ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ ಅಥವಾ ಕಛೇರಿ ವೇಳೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಕೆಳಗೆ ಸಹಿ ಮಾಡಿದವರ ಕಛೇರಿಯನ್ನು ಸಂಪರ್ಕಿಸಬಹುದಾಗಿರುತ್ತದೆ.

ವಾಸಾಇ/ಡಿವಿಜಿ/170/ ಕೆಎಸ್ಎಂಸಿಎ/2026-27
ಸಹಿ/- ಕಾರ್ಯಪಾಲಕ ಇಂಜಿನಿಯರ್, ಕನೀನಿನಿ ನಂ.5 ಭದ್ರಾ ನಾಲಾ ವಿಭಾಗ, ದಾವಣಗೆರೆ.

KARNATAKA HOUSING BOARD
3rd Floor, Cauvery Bhavan, K.G. Road, Bengaluru - 560009.

Tender Notification
(Through Karnataka Public Procurement Portal only)

Karnataka Housing Board invites tender through Karnataka Public procurement Portal for Appointment of Project Management Consultant (PMC) for the work of Development of Site & Services scheme at 1) Indalawadi village 2) Bagganadoddi, Thimmayyanadoddi & Mysurammanadoddi village & 3) Kadujakkanahalli village.

Notification No.:
1. Tender Ref No: CE/PMC/SNR/KHB/2026-27/SE0385 to SE0387
Date: 22.06.2026
Last date for submission of bid: 06.07.2026 upto 4.00 PM

For further information , contact below mentioned office address: Executive Engineer, Karnataka Housing Board, Cauvery Bhavan, Bengaluru. Telephone No: 080-22273511, Website: **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in**

Sd/- Executive Engineer, Karnataka Housing Board, Bengaluru
DIPR/CP/1292/AKAR/2026-27

ಪುರಸಭಾ ಕಾರ್ಯಾಲಯ, ಜಿಗಣಿ
ಜಿಗಣಿ ಹೋಬಳಿ, ಆನೇಕಲ್ ತಾಲ್ಲೂಕು, ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು ನಗರ ಜಿಲ್ಲೆ, ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು-560105.
ದೂ: 080-29760400, E-Mail: itstaff_ulb_jigani@yahoo.com, jiganideo@gmail.com
ಸಂ:ಜಿ.ಪು.ಕಾ/ತಾಂ.ಶಾ/ಟೆಂ.ಪ್ರ/09/2026-27 ದಿನಾಂಕ: 22.06.2026

ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ
(ಕೆಪಿಪಿ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ ಮುಖಾಂತರ ಮಾತ್ರ)

ಜಿಗಣಿ ಪುರಸಭೆ ವ್ಯಾಪ್ತಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಸಾರ್ವಜನಿಕರಿಗೆ ಕುಡಿಯುವ ನೀರು ಪೂರೈಸುವ ಜಿಗಣಿ ಪುರಸಭೆಗೆ ಸೇರಿದ ಪಂಪು ಮೋಟರ್‌ಗಳು ಹಾಗೂ ಇತರೆ ಕುಡಿಯುವ ನೀರಿನ ಸಾಮಾಗ್ರಿಗಳ ದುರಸ್ಥಿ ಪಡಿಸುವುದು, ಕುಡಿಯುವ ನೀರಿನ ಪೈಪ್‌ಲೈನ್ ದುರಸ್ಥಿ ಮತ್ತು ಒಳಚರಂಡಿ ದುರಸ್ಥಿಯ ವಾರ್ಷಿಕ ನಿರ್ವಹಣೆಗಾಗಿ 2026-27ನೇ ಸಾಲಿನ ಪುರಸಭಾ ನಿಧಿಯಡಿ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳನ್ನು ಕೈಗೊಳ್ಳಲು ಅನುಮೋದನೆಯಾಗಿದ್ದು, ನೊಂದಾಯಿತ ಅರ್ಹ ದರ್ಜೆ ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆದಾರರಿಂದ ಸದರಿ ಎಲ್ಲಾ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳನ್ನು ವಾರ್ಷಿಕ ನಿರ್ವಹಣೆಗಾಗಿ ನಿರ್ವಹಿಸಲು ಕೆಪಿಪಿ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ ಮುಖಾಂತರ ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ನ್ನು ಆಹ್ವಾನಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ. ಆಸಕ್ತಿಯುಳ್ಳವರು ಕೆಪಿಪಿ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ ವೆಬ್‌ಸೈಟ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ ಮಾಹಿತಿಯುನ್ನು ಪಡೆದು ಭಾಗವಹಿಸಬಹುದಾಗಿರುತ್ತದೆ.

ಕ್ರ. ಸಂ.	ವಿಷಯ	ಅಂದಾಜು ಮೊತ್ತ
1	ಜಿಗಣಿ ಪುರಸಭೆ ವ್ಯಾಪ್ತಿಯ ವಾರ್ಡ್ ನಂ. 01 ರಿಂದ 23 ರವರೆಗೆ ಒಳಚರಂಡಿ ದುರಸ್ಥಿ ಮತ್ತು ನಿರ್ವಹಣೆ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿ. ಇಂಡೆಂಟ್ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ: DMA/2026-27/OW/WORK_INDENT 57073/ CALL-02	50.00 ಲಕ್ಷಗಳು
2	ಜಿಗಣಿ ಪುರಸಭೆ ವ್ಯಾಪ್ತಿಯ ವಾರ್ಡ್ ನಂ. 01 ರಿಂದ 23 ರವರೆಗೆ ಕುಡಿಯುವ ನೀರಿನ ಪೈಪ್‌ಲೈನ್ ದುರಸ್ಥಿ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿ. ಇಂಡೆಂಟ್ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ: DMA/2026-27/WS/WORK_INDENT 57008/ CALL-02	45.00 ಲಕ್ಷಗಳು
3	ಜಿಗಣಿ 'ಪುರಸಭೆ ವ್ಯಾಪ್ತಿಯ ವಾರ್ಡ್ ನಂ. 01 ರಿಂದ 23 ರವರೆಗೆ ಕುಡಿಯುವ ನೀರಿನ ಬೋರ್‌ವೆಲ್‌ಗಳಲ್ಲಿನ ಪಂಪು ಮೋಟರ್‌ಗಳ ದುರಸ್ಥಿ ಮತ್ತು ಇತರೆ ಕುಡಿಯುವ ನೀರಿನ ಸಾಮಾಗ್ರಿಗಳ ನಿರ್ವಹಣೆ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿ. ಇಂಡೆಂಟ್ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ: DMA/2026-27/ WS/WORK_INDENT59900	76.00 ಲಕ್ಷಗಳು

1. ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳ ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ಗೆ ಅರ್ಜಿ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಲು ಕೊನೆಯ ದಿನಾಂಕ: **02.07.2026ರ ಸಂಜೆ 4.00 ಗಂಟೆಯವರೆಗೆ.** 2. ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ನ್ನು ತೆರೆಯುವ ದಿನಾಂಕ: **03.07.2026ರ ಸಂಜೆ 4.30 ಗಂಟೆಯ ನಂತರ.** ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ಮಾಹಿತಿಗಾಗಿ ಕಛೇರಿ ವೇಳೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಸಂಪರ್ಕಿಸಬಹುದಾಗಿರುತ್ತದೆ, ದೂರವಾಣಿ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ: 080-29760400 ಇಮೇಲ್:itstaff_ulb_jigani@yahoo.com. 3. ಪುರಸಭೆಯ ಅನುದಾನದ ಲಭ್ಯತೆಯ ಮೇರೆಗೆ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳ ಬಿಲ್ಲನ್ನು ಪಾವತಿಸಲಾಗುವುದು.

ಸಹಿ/- ಅಧ್ಯಕ್ಷರು, ಪುರಸಭೆ, ಜಿಗಣಿ
ವಾಸಾಸಂಇ/ವಾಪ್ರ/ಜಿಎ/1291/2026-27
ಸಹಿ/- ಮುಖ್ಯಾಧಿಕಾರಿಗಳು, ಪುರಸಭೆ, ಜಿಗಣಿ

ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರಕಾರ
ಪಂಚಾಯತ ರಾಜ್ ಇಂಜಿನೀಯರಿಂಗ್ ವಿಭಾಗ, ಶಿರಸಿ ಉತ್ತರ ಕನ್ನಡ
ದೂರವಾಣಿ: 08384-226381 ಇ-ಮೇಲ್: ee_zpedsirsi@yahoo.co.in
ಕ್ರ.ಸಂ:ಪಂ.ರಾ.ಇಂ/ವಿಶಿ/ಪಿ.ಬಿ-1/CMIDP/ Mitigation/ಟೆಂಡರ್-07/2026-27/530
ದಿನಾಂಕ: 18-06-2026

ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ 07/2026-27 (ಇ - ಪ್ರೊಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ಮೂಲಕ)

ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ರಾಜ್ಯಪಾಲರ ಪರವಾಗಿ ಕಾರ್ಯನಿರ್ವಾಹಕ ಅಭಿಯಂತರರು, ಪಂಚಾಯತ್ ರಾಜ್ ಇಂಜಿನೀಯರಿಂಗ್ ವಿಭಾಗ, ಶಿರಸಿ ಇವರಿಂದ ಲೋಕೋಪಯೋಗಿ ಇಲಾಖೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ನವಿಕೃತ ನೊಂದಾಯಿತ 2019-20 ನೇ ಸಾಲಿನ ನವಿಕೃತ ನೋಂದಾಯಿಸಿದ ಅರ್ಹ ಹಾಗೂ ಇ - ಪ್ರೊಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ಸಂಸ್ಥೆಯಿಂದ ನೋಂದಾಯಿಸಲ್ಪಟ್ಟ ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆದಾರರಿಂದ **CMIDP** ಹಾಗೂ **NDRF & SDRF (Mitigation Land Sliding)** ಯೋಜನೆಯಡಿ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳಿಗೆ ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರ್ಕಾರದ ಸಾರ್ವಜನಿಕ ಖರೀದಿ ಪಾರದರ್ಶಕತೆ ಕಾನೂನು ಹಾಗೂ ನಿಯಮಾವಳಿ 2000 ಹಾಗೂ **Standard Tender Document** ನಂತೆ **KW-III** ತತ್ಸಂಬಂಧ ಕಾಲಕಾಲಕ್ಕೆ ಹೊರಡಿಸಲಾದ ತಿದ್ದುಪಡಿ ಆದೇಶಗಳನ್ವಯ ನಿಬಂಧನೆಗೆ ಒಳಪಟ್ಟು ಈ ಕೆಳಗಿನಂತೆ ಐಟಂವಾರು ಟೆಂಡರ ಕರೆಯಲಾಗಿದೆ. ಅರ್ಹ ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆದಾರರು ಇ-ಆಡಳಿತ ಕೇಂದ್ರ ಅಥವಾ ವೆಬ್‌ಸೈಟ್ **http://www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in** ನಲ್ಲಿ ಪ್ರಕಟಿಸಿದಂತೆ ದಿನಾಂಕ ಹಾಗೂ ಇನ್ನುಳಿದ ವಿವರಗಳನ್ನು ಖಚಿತಪಡಿಸಿಕೊಂಡು ಟೆಂಡರಿಗಾಗಿ ಭಾಗವಹಿಸಬಹುದು. ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ವಿವರಗಳಿಗೆ ಈ ಕಚೇರಿಯಿಂದ ಕಚೇರಿ ವೇಳೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಮಾಹಿತಿ ಪಡೆಯಬಹುದು ಟೆಂಡರ್ ವಿವರಗಳು ಈ ಕೆಳಗಿನಂತಿವೆ.

ಕಾಮಗಾರಿ ಹೆಸರು: **Others Category:**
(1) RDPR/2026-27/BR/WORK_INDENT25942/CALL-2
(2) RDPR/2025-26/OW/WORK_INDENT24975/CALL-2

(1) ಭರ್ತಿ ಮಾಡಿದ ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ಗಳನ್ನು ಸ್ವೀಕರಿಸುವ ಕೊನೆಯ ದಿನಾಂಕ: 10-07-2026 ರ ಸಂಜೆ 16.00 ಘಂಟೆ ವರೆಗೆ (2) ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಶೆಡ್ಯೂಲ್-ಬಿ ಗಳ **Technical Bid** ಗಳನ್ನು ತೆರೆಯುವ ದಿನಾಂಕ: 13-07-2026 ಬೆಳಿಗ್ಗೆ 11.30 ಘಂಟೆಗೆ (ಸಾಧ್ಯವಾದಲ್ಲಿ) ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ವಿವರಗಳನ್ನು **www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in** ವೆಬ್‌ಸೈಟಿನಲ್ಲಿ ಅಥವಾ ಈ ಕಚೇರಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಪಡೆಯಬಹುದಾಗಿದೆ. (3) ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗೆ **Financial Bid** ಗಳನ್ನು ತೆರೆಯುವ ದಿನಾಂಕ: 21-07-2026 ಸಂಜೆ 16.30 ಘಂಟೆಗೆ (ಸಾಧ್ಯವಾದಲ್ಲಿ)

DIPR/KWR/KSMCA/225/26-27 dt. 22.06.2026
ಸಹಿ/- ಕಾರ್ಯನಿರ್ವಾಹಕ ಇಂಜಿನೀಯರು, ಪಂಚಾಯತ ರಾಜ್ ಇಂಜಿನೀಯರಿಂಗ್ ವಿಭಾಗ, ಶಿರಸಿ.

KARNATAKA STATE FINANCIAL CORPORATION
(Established under the State Financial Corporations Act 1951), Branch office, MB Road, SLN Complex,Near KSRTC Bus Stand, KOLAR 563 101 Ph Nos. 08152-224757/222661, Mobile No. 9845441426
Email: klr.ksfc@karnataka.gov.in

Sale of Food Grain Processing and Manufacturing Unit Through E-auction

The following assets taken over under section 29 of SFC's Act 1951 are available for sale on "AS IS WHERE IS BASIS" through e- auction. The interested persons for purchase of following Plant and Machinery suitable for food grain processing and manufacturing (flour mill with automatic packaging) unit may participate in the e-auction.

Name of the Unit: M/s.Lenny Foods and Agro, Shed No.B-23, KSSIDC Industrial Estate, Kuppam Road, Andersonpet, KGF, Kolar District.

Plant & Machinery : FULLY AUTOMATIC FLOUR MILL PLANT-CLEANING CAPACITY 1000 KG/HOUR & FLOUR 400 KG/HOUR AND OTHER ACCESSORIES. DOUBLE HEAD FLOUR MILL TYPE PULVARISER WITH 10HP MOTOR. SINGLE HEAD FLOUR MILL TYPE PULVERISER WITH 10 HP MOTOR. RAGI CLEANING MACHINE WITH DESTONER. AUTOMATIC PACKAGING MACHINE WITH ACCESSORIES. AIR COMPRESSOR WEIGHING MACHINE-1No. DESKTOP COMPUTER, PRINTER, CAMERAS AND OTHER ACCESSORIES ALONG WITH OFFICE FURNITURES AND PARTITION.

Reserve Price : 45.53 lakhs **EMD amount :** 4.56 lakhs,

Property Inspection : 08.07.2026 between 11:00 a.m to 1.00 p.m.

Terms and Conditions: 1) Assets are for sale on " AS IS WHERE IS BASIS" through e-Auction. 2) e-Auction will commence from 24.07.2026 from 11.00 A.M and closes on 28.07.2026 at 4.00 P.M. 3) The last date for payment of EMD through Online will be on 22.07.2026 upto 4.00 P.M. 4) The Purchaser has to pay 25% of the sale amount including EMD amount within 24 hours from the date of sale before the closing working hours of the office. The balance 75% of the sale amount has to be paid within 15 days from the date of sale communication. 5) Loanee / personal guarantors are hereby requested to bring prospective buyers through e-auction as per terms and conditions of e-auction. 6) For further details of e-Auction Sale and the other terms and conditions please refer to website: https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in. 7) Interested bidders may contact e-procurement help desk no.080-46010000/22631200 OR may visit e- Procurement Cell, situated at 4th Floor, SSS Buildings, Opposite to RBI, Nrupathunga Road, Bengaluru-560001 for further clarifications and also from Branch Office, Kolar as mentioned above.

Place: Kolar
Date: 22.06.2026
Sd/- Branch Manager

TEAMS: 48 VENUES: 16 TOURNAMENT SPAN: 39 DAYS

Hungry Egypt make their World Cup mark

Salah revels in 3-1 defeat of New Zealand

VANCOUVER, REUTERS

Mohamed Salah has built a career on rewriting the record books and the Egypt captain did so again on Sunday, scoring and setting up another goal as his side fought back to beat New Zealand 3-1 in Vancouver for a historic first World Cup victory.

After an underwhelming final season at Liverpool by his own lofty standards, the 34-year-old Salah has responded impressively on the global stage, registering a goal and two assists in two matches at this tournament.

Though no longer at his peak following the end of his glittering nine-year spell on Merseyside, Salah remains Egypt's primary attacking threat.

Hossam Hassan again deployed Salah in a central role behind striker Omar Marmoush in a 4-2-3-1 formation, flanked by Emam Ashour and Mostafa Zico.

The Egypt coach had expressed his satisfaction with Salah's adaptation to the unfamiliar position before the match, and the forward once more proved influential at BC Place.

Roared on by a crowd heavily weighted in Egypt's favour, with swathes of red shirts and Liverpool jerseys in the stands, Salah was at the heart of everything positive.

Although largely peripheral in a subdued first half, he took control after the interval, finishing with five attempts on goal, two on target, and claiming man-of-the-match honours.

Egypt	New Zealand
3	1

Egypt's resurgence began in the 58th minute when Zico headed in Mohamed Hany's cross to cancel out New Zealand's opener. Momentum quickly shifted.

Nine minutes later, Salah exchanged passes with Zico in a slick one-two before curling home a left-footed finish. He then turned provider, delivering an outswinging corner that Mahmoud Trezeguet powered home to seal the victory.

"We can make history and qualify top of the group, and in the years to come you will remember this as one of our best achievements," Salah said.

"We just have to enjoy today, enjoy tomorrow, and then focus on the next game.

"It feels like we are playing in Egypt, with all the fans wearing red. Everybody is happy and excited. I do not know what to say - it is a great atmosphere."

Egypt, who drew 1-1 with Belgium in their opener, moved top of the group with four points from two matches. The All Whites, held 2-2 by Iran in their firs game, are bottom with one point.

Egypt's Mohamed Salah (centre) scores against New Zealand in Vancouver on Sunday. REUTERS

Veteran Salah stamps his class

VANCOUVER, AP

While Mohamed Salah's club career is still undecided, he's building his legacy with Egypt.

Salah scored his 68th goal in international play, a total now just one goal shy of current Egypt coach Hossam Hassan's career record for the Pharaohs, in a 3-1 World Cup victory on Sunday night over New Zealand.

It was his third World Cup goal after he netted two at the 2018 tournament in Russia. Three goals at the World Cup gives the 34-year-old Salah the most ever for an Egyptian player.

Salah played for Liverpool for nine seasons, winning two Premier League titles and becoming the league's leading foreign goal-scorer. But he had a dip in form this season and, amid tensions, announced his contract with the squad would be ended a year early.

His departure from Anfield sparked discussion as to where the striker would be going next.

For now, he plays for Egypt with his future plans still uncertain.

While between clubs, Mo Salah has etched his name further into the history books as the captain of the first Egyptian team to win a World Cup match.

"What happened today is history for us as Egyptians," Salah said. "We see a lot of teams win games, but for us as Egyptian, it doesn't happen often, first time in history."

Fans would have to wait to see the Salah they grew to expect at Liverpool. He started slowly in the first half, missing wide left on a direct free-kick and watching New Zealand take an early lead, but he would not be denied for long.

Salah scored on Sunday on a pass from Mostafa Ziko in the 67th minute. The ball slid underneath a defender and past New Zealand goalkeeper Max Crocombe to give the Pharaohs a 2-1 lead.

Salah wasn't done adding to his résumé quite yet, getting an assist in the 82nd minute on the Pharaohs' final goal, his second assist of this game. He also had an assist on Egypt's lone goal in its 1-1 draw against Belgium earlier in the tournament.

"He's a good player," New Zealand captain Chris Wood said. "You have to keep an eye on him."

The four-time Premier League Golden Boot winner scored nine goals in 10 matches to qualify the Pharaohs for this World Cup. Salah became the career scoring leader in African World Cup qualifying history.

Salah should have his share of clubs interested in his talents after a strong start to the World Cup.

"Salah worked hard on the pitch," Egypt manager Hossam Hassan said.

Egypt's Mo Salah became the oldest player from his country to score a FIFA World Cup goal, at the age of 34.

Argentina's Lionel Messi (left) celebrates after scoring against Austria on Monday that made him the leading goal-scorer in the history of the FIFA World Cup. REUTERS

Sweet 17: Messi sets World Cup scoring record

ARLINGTON (US), AFP

Lionel Messi became the leading scorer in World Cup history when the Argentina captain netted against Austria on Monday to take his total to 17 goals.

Messi had equalled Miroslav Klose's all-time mark of 16 World Cup goals when hitting a hat-trick in a 3-0 win over Algeria to open his country's title defence in North America last week.

He made it 17 when he swept home after 38 minutes in Argentina's second group game, to deafening roars at the home of the Dallas Cowboys in Arlington, Texas.

The 38-year-old had missed a penalty earlier in the game. Argentina wear leading 1-0 at halftime.

Messi is playing at his sixth World Cup, his first coming in 2006 and he now has 121 goals in 201 games for his country. His enduring quality augurs well for Argentina's hopes of becoming the first team since Brazil in 1962 to win back-to-back World Cup titles.

Messi was tearful after his first goal against Algeria, and it later emerged that his father is recovering from an unspecified health issue.

Despite his personal travails and a troubled build-up because of a hamstring niggle, Messi's mere presence inspires his teammates.

"If anyone thought this group was better off without Leo, today it became clear that Leo is the most important of them all," said midfielder Alexis Mac Allister after the win against Algeria.

Inter Miami attacker Messi had not even committed to playing the tournament in North America until the last moment.

But nobody realistically expected him to be absent from spearheading Argentina's title defence.

Iran dig deep to frustrate Belgium

LOS ANGELES, AFP

Belgium were held to a scoreless draw by Iran in a frustrating encounter Sunday that saw the Red Devils reduced to 10 men and facing the possibility of group-stage elimination for a second straight World Cup.

A star-studded though ageing lineup including Kevin De Bruyne and Romelu Lukaku was if anything fortunate to leave Los Angeles with a point, controlling possession yet ceding the game's best chances to a resolute Iran team.

Iran's Mehdi Taremi had the ball in the net from a well-worked first-half free kick that was overturned for offside by VAR, while Nathan Ngoy was sent off after the break for hauling down the striker after a badly mis-hit backpass.

Iran	Belgium
0	0

The result means all three games so far in Group G have ended in draws. Stuck on two points, Belgium at least have the comfort of playing the tournament's lowest-ranked team, New Zealand, in their final group game.

Iran will also need at least a point against Egypt next Friday. Having been frustrated by visa issues as they travel from their base camp in Mexico to games in the US, Team Melli will hope to focus on the football as travel restrictions are reportedly eased for their crucial trip to Seattle.

Inside the stadium, Iran's anthem again drew a chorus of boos and whistles -- a reception at odds with the response to the players themselves, who were loudly cheered.

Having switched to a back five, Iran sat deep in the first half, allowing Belgium to dominate possession and to play hundreds of passes around their penalty area without creating any clear-cut opportunities.

Target man Lukaku, back in the starting lineup after making an impact from the bench in Belgium's 1-1 draw with Egpyt, managed a solitary headed effort in the 36th minute, which sailed over the bar.

Iran had the first half's two best chances, entirely against the run of play. Hossein Kanani's low shot after a long throw was well saved by an outstretched Thibaut Courtois.

And Iran's star striker Taremi had the ball in the net midway through the half after a cleverly worked free kick, but it was ruled offside.

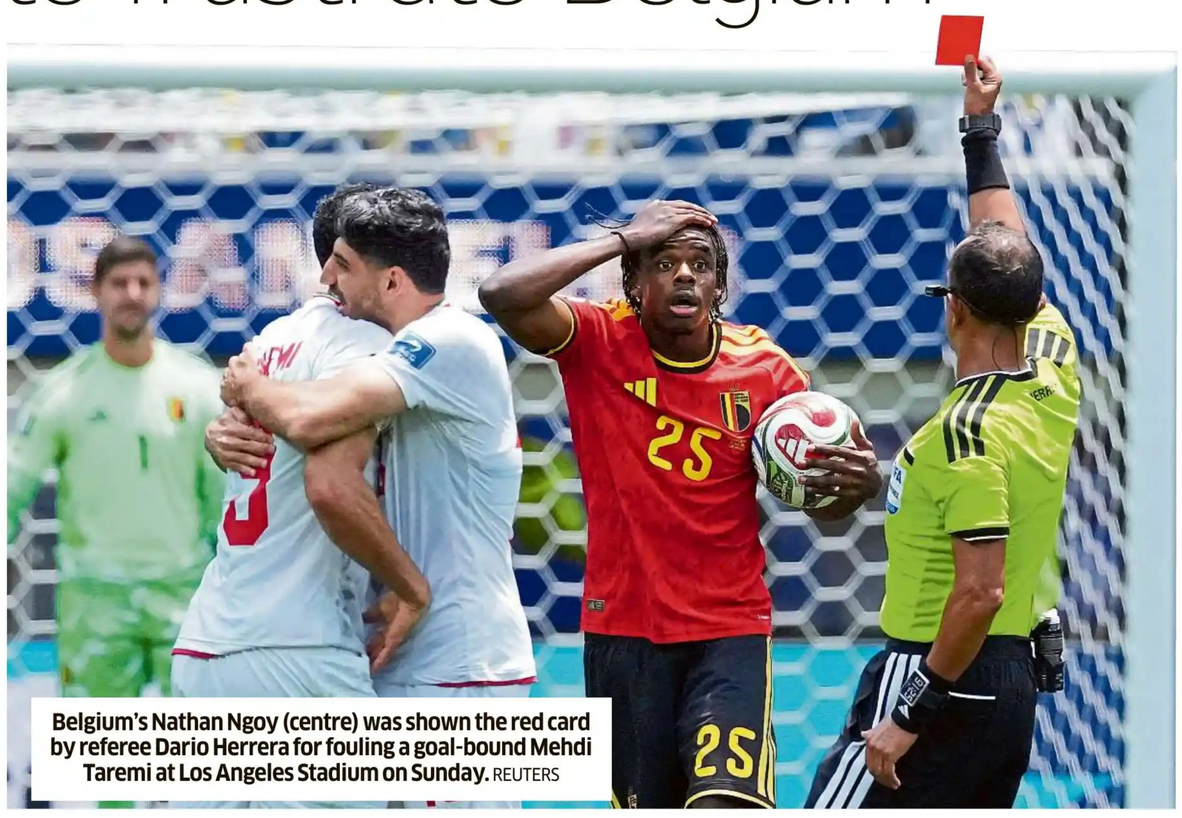
The former Inter Milan man span away from Belgium's wall, swiveled and buried the ball, before VAR overruled the effort, to the dismay of a vocally pro-Iran crowd.

After the break, Belgium continued to huff and puff while Taremi again nearly scored at the other end. Courtois did well to save after Kanani had flicked on a long throw to the Iran forward.

Belgium coach Rudi Garcia made a triple substitution around the hour mark and his side immediately came close, Maxim De Cuyper's point-blank effort from De Bruyne's cut-back well saved.

Substitute Hans Vanaken blasted a shot from a rebound well over the bar moments later, as the Red Devils finally began to knock on Iran's door in earnest. But disaster struck for Belgium as Ngoy was sent off. The center-back had badly underhit a pass back to Courtois, and raised his arm into Taremi as the striker raced through on goal.

The game settled into a nervous, scrappy stalemate.



Belgium's Nathan Ngoy (centre) was shown the red card by referee Dario Herrera for fouling a goal-bound Mehdi Taremi at Los Angeles Stadium on Sunday. REUTERS

Iran coach carves pride amid adversity

LOS ANGELES, AFP: Coach Amir Ghalenoei hailed Iran's unbeaten start to the World Cup as a "great achievement" that will be remembered by future generations, following a 0-0 draw with Belgium on Sunday.

Having arrived at the tournament under the shadow of war between Tehran and Washington, Iran have drawn both their opening games, and remain in with a chance to qualify for the knockout rounds for the first time.

'Great achievement'

Ghalenoei praised his players for holding Belgium, ranked 10th in the world, to a stalemate in Los Angeles on Sunday despite facing the strain of considerable visa and travel restrictions in the United States.

"This is a great achievement. We've had two games without losing in the World Cup, with the conditions that we've had," he said.

"We had less than 16 hours to get to do training before the game," he said, after his team was not permitted to travel early to the US from their base camp in Mexico.

"This is a great achievement, and it will be written about in the history of our football, and future generations will talk about this."

Before the game, the Iran anthem was booed by members of Los Angeles' extensive Persian exile community, who oppose the country's hardline regime. But the team itself was vocally supported by a majority of the packed stadium.

"I want to thank all the Iranians, with different attitudes regarding politics. They supported us, and they gave us energy," said Ghalenoei.

Ghalenoei said that despite Belgium having Nathan Ngoy sent off in the 66th minute, Iran were "lucky not to lose" given the strength of the opposition.

"I don't think any team in the world could have really sustained with such conditions, and played like this -- the conditions have been extremely hard for us," he said.

"Our players are really giving everything, they are playing with their heart."

In an evenly poised Group G, Iran must secure at least a point in their final game against Egypt, which will take place in Seattle next Friday.

"Tomorrow we need to focus on the game with Egypt. Egypt is a very strong team, they have very good players. Our first and utmost aim is to reach the next round," said the manager.

Iran midfielder Alireza Jahanbakhsh also paid tribute to the team's "spirit" and "amazing performance."

Iran's head coach Amir Ghalenoei said his team's performance at the World Cup will be remembered by the generations to come. AFP

FIFA WORLD CUP

WC duties no barrier to players' pursuit of lucrative moves

World Cups are a renowned showcase for players to earn a money-spinning transfer, but many at this tournament are pressing ahead with moves on their club future while still on international duty, reports AFP from Atlanta.

Spain's Marc Cucurella **(in pic)** was officially unveiled as a Real Madrid player just hours before he took the field against tournament debutants Cape Verde. A few days later Liverpool won the race for his international team-mate Victor Munoz.

No pressure to pass to Ronaldo: Conceicao

Portugal winger Francisco Conceicao insisted on Sunday his team-mates felt no pressure to pass to Cristiano Ronaldo following scrutiny of the veteran superstar's role in their lacklustre World Cup opener, reports AFP from Palm Beach.

Critics have questioned whether the 41-year-old Ronaldo's lack of mobility is having a negative effect on Portugal's chances.

But Conceicao on Sunday said there was no was question of players feeling obliged to pass to Ronaldo.

Uruguay struggle as Suarez watches

Uruguay is off to a start many did not expect. After draws against Saudi Arabia and Cape Verde, and with a match against Spain still to come, the two-time World Cup winner is at risk of missing the knockout stage, reports AP from Miami Gardens.

Among the many fans watching was someone the team looked to for goals for more than 15 years: Luis Suarez.

The matches were played in Miami Stadium, near where Suarez serves as striker for Inter Miami.

Mexican fans back Iran

Sporting his Mexico team jersey, football fan Alan Romero got up at 4 am on Sunday to drive from Tijuana to Los Angeles, just so he could cheer for Iran in their World Cup match against Belgium, reports AFP from Inglewood.

The 35-year-old man is one of hundreds of Mexican supporters who went to SoFi Stadium to watch a match that, on first glance, had nothing to do with them.

Yet, the crowd leapt with joy when Iran's Team Melli nearly scored against Belgium's Red Devils, before the referee disallowed the goal for being offside -- earning a chorus of whistles.

"Our second team for this World Cup is Iran," said Romero.

'Hydration break helps minnows'

The steamy weather and hydration breaks are helping the smaller teams at the World Cup, Argentina coach Lionel Scaloni said Sunday on the eve of the reigning champions' second game, reports Arlington, USA.

"What we see in this World Cup is that there is no such thing as an easy game," said Scaloni. "(Even if) the group phase has always been historically (tricky), I would say this World Cup is a little bit more because there are more matches. The group phase has always been difficult to everyone, and the conditions, the heat and the match stops constantly."

Germany's Nico out of World Cup

Germany defender Nico Schlotterbeck has been ruled out of the rest of the World Cup and beyond with a left ankle injury sustained during Saturday's 2-1 win over Ivory Coast, reports AP from Winston-Salem.

Tests on Sunday back at the team camp in Winston-Salem revealed Schlotterbeck, who had started both of Germany's opening games in the tournament, sustained an injury to the medial ligament in his ankle.

Kevin Pina (right) celebrates with team-mates after scoring Cape Verde's first goal in their 2-2 draw against Uruguay. AFP

Cape Verde pull off another miracle

Pina, Varela shine as debutants hold two-time champs Uruguay

MIAMI GARDENS (FLORIDA), AP

Cape Verde's magical start to its first World Cup isn't over. It might just be getting started.

The tiny island nation that stunned tournament favourite Spain last week did it again against Uruguay – a two-time World Cup champion – on Sunday, coming from behind for a 2-2 draw.

Kevin Pina scored on a free-kick for Cape Verde's first-ever goal in the World Cup, and Helio Varela scored the equaliser for what has become one of the most surprising teams of the expanded 48-team tournament – a club now with a legitimate chance of getting into the knockout stage.

"This is something we owe to other smaller national teams – teams that struggled to qualify for a world tournament," Cape Verde coach Pedro Leitao Brito said through an interpreter, adding that his entire squad believes it can continue its historic play and reach the knockout stage.

Cape Verde, which has two points in Group H along with Uruguay, face Saudi Arabia in its final group match.

"We're also here to show that a country may be small, may struggle financially," he added, "But if they are resilient, if they can endure struggle, they can also stand shoulder to shoulder with other major teams and with players who are on another level."

The group of islands off Africa's West coast have about 4,000 square metres of landmass and approximately a half million inhabitants, making Cape Verde the third-smallest nation by population to qualify for the World Cup.

Uruguay	Cape Verde
2	2

Even as a large number of fans at Miami Stadium chanted for Uruguay throughout Sunday's match, Cape Verdean players seemed undaunted.

"Once you're on the pitch, a lot of things become equal," Leitao Brito said.

Cape Verdean fans who watched their squad pull off one of the stunners of the tournament last week by holding

Spain to a scoreless draw continued their celebrations when Pina split Uruguay's wall and blasted a strike past diving goalie Fernando Muslera for a 1-0 lead in the 21st.

Maxi Araujo and Agustin Canobbio scored late first-half goals to put Uruguay ahead. But Varela, minutes after coming into the game in the second half, took advantage of a bad pass by Mathias Olivera and caught Muslera way off his line for a tying empty-net goal and his first international score.

"I had dreamed of this," Varela said in a quote distributed by FIFA.

Varela celebrated by hopping into his teammates' arms and flexing atop their shoulders as Muslera and other Uruguay players dropped their heads in disappointment.

"The result, I think, was quite deserved," Uruguay coach Marcelo Bielsa said.

Bruised Portugal seek a sharper edge

HOUSTON, REUTERS

Portugal had plenty of the ball in their World Cup opener but little bite and Roberto Martinez's side return to Houston on Tuesday needing a sharper attacking display against Uzbekistan after a frustrating 1-1 draw with Democratic Republic of Congo.

The numbers told a familiar cautionary tale. According to Opta, Portugal completed 783 passes against the Africans, fewer only than Spain's 800, and topped the possession chart with 75%.

Yet all that control produced seven shots and only one on target — Joao Neves' sixth-minute header.

For a team carrying high expectations around Cristiano Ronaldo and an array of attacking options, the struggle came not in circulation of the ball but in the final third, where creativity, decision-making and finishing deserted them.

Portugal's shot count was among the lowest of the opening round, with only five of the 48 teams managing fewer, while Spain, despite being held 0-0 by Cape Verde, attempted 27 shots.

Martinez will hope for a more ruthless display against an Uzbekistan side beaten 3-1 by Colombia in their first-ever World Cup match, a debut marked by nerves and caution.

Uzbekistan coach Fabio Cannavaro said the occasion weighed heavily on his players.

The Italian, winner of the 2006 Ballon d'Or, believes the pressure of their World Cup bow has now passed and pointed to Uzbekistan's second-half chances against Colombia as evidence they can trouble Portugal.

"We have plenty of quality to be a top Asian team, but of course we have to grow," he added.

Portugal trained in Palm Beach on Sunday, with Benfica centre-back Tomas Araujo again working separately as he continues specific recovery work after starting against DR Congo.

Cristiano Ronaldo, who played the full match in the opener and came in for criticism, remains central to Portugal's story at 41.

"Cristiano is an example because of his career, because of the hunger he still has at his age," winger Francisco Conceicao said. "For us and for the new generation, he's a role model."

For Portugal, though, inspiration alone will not be enough. Against Uzbekistan, Ronaldo must step up and do what is expected of him as the target man in his team's attack.

Portugal's underfire captain Cristiano Ronaldo will be looking to silence the critics when they take on Uzbekistan. REUTERS

Panama, Croatia have no room for errors

TORONTO, REUTERS

On Tuesday

Jordan vs Algeria (8:30 am)

Portugal vs **Uzbek** (10:30 pm)

On Wednesday

England vs Ghana (1:30 am)

Panama vs **Croatia** (4:30 am)

All timings in IST

Panama and Croatia meet in a pivotal World Cup clash at Toronto Stadium on Tuesday that neither side can really afford to lose with qualification for the knockout rounds potentially on the line, depending on the result of the day's other Group L fixture.

Panama, who lost their opening game to Ghana, are still searching for their first-ever win at a World Cup and face an uphill battle to get out of a group that also includes an England side who is among the tournament favourites.

Adalberto Carrasquilla-led Panama looked solid in the first half of their World Cup opener in Toronto as they dominated possession and seemed certain to score a breakthrough goal but instead lost their defensive focus and went on to suffer a stinging 1-0 loss after Ghana's Caleb Yirenkyi scored in the fifth minute of extra time.

"The result is painful, but that is because we deserved better," Panama manager Thomas Christiansen said after a game in which his team had 11 attempts on goal.

To get by Croatia, Panama will likely need their strikers to be more decisive in the final third than they were against Ghana. Panama's first foray into the World Cup ended at the group stage in 2018. They clinched their place at the current expanded 48-team edition on the final matchday of qualifying. Croatia lost 4-2 to England at Dallas Stadium, a result that coach Zlatko Dalic said left his side with no room for error.

"It's very important for us to be at the right level after this defeat," said Dalic. "We do not have the right to any more mistakes."

Dalic was also scathing of his team's "disastrous" efforts at defending set pieces after two of England's goals followed corners.

Since finishing third as debutants in 1998, Croatia have missed out on only the 2010 tournament, and have reached the podium at both of their last editions; they were runners-up to France in 2018 and secured another third-place finish in 2022.

The Balkan side will likely be led by Petar Musa. Luka Modric will also do all he an to help boost their chances of advancing.

Adalberto Carrasquilla-led (left) Panama looked convincing in their opening group game but face a tougher outfit in Luka Modric's Croatia. AFP

Knockout spot up for grabs

KANSAS CITY, REUTERS

England and Ghana can both reach for the World Cup knockout rounds on Tuesday when two teams glowing from opening wins collide in Boston in a Group L clash that should offer a clearer measure of their tournament credentials.

England arrive with a swagger after a 4-2 victory over Croatia that showcased Thomas Tuchel's attacking ambition, but also exposed enough defensive fragility to keep expectations in check. Ghana, disciplined and dangerous in a 1-0 win over Panama, have the chance to turn a promising start into a statement.

Tuchel's side made an emphatic start, with Harry Kane, Jude Bellingham and Marcus Rashford scoring as England combined attacking flair with occasional defensive vulnerability against Croatia.

England's in-form striker Harry Kane will be tested when they face defensively disciplined Ghana. AFP

The result strengthened belief that Tuchel's more adventurous approach could make England genuine contenders in North America, although the two goals conceded also provided a reminder that there is room for improvement.

Kane is leading the team at his third World Cup, supported by a group that blends established names such as Bellingham, Declan Rice and Bukayo Saka with emerging talents including Kobbie Mainoo and Morgan Rogers.

Tuchel's challenge will be balancing attacking ambition with defensive solidity as the competition intensifies.

Ghana, meanwhile, arrive with little pressure but plenty of confidence. The Black Stars showed discipline and patience in overcoming Panama, with a late goal securing all three points and putting them on the verge of a first appearance in the knockout rounds since 2010.

Thomas Partey will be available after he was denied entry into Canada for the Panama game in Toronto, with the former Arsenal midfielder facing allegations of rape and sexual assault in Britain. He has denied the charges.

Under veteran coach Carlos Queiroz, Ghana have built their success on organisation and quick transitions, and they possess enough pace and physicality to trouble England if given space on the counter-attack.

Ghana have long been one of Africa's most respected World Cup nations and arrive at the 2026 tournament carrying hopes of another memorable run.

IN BRIEF

Pritam bags Jr world title

▸ Teenager Pritam Kendre struck gold in the men's 10m air rifle competition as India's impressive run at the ISSF Junior World Championship showed no signs of slowing down, reports PTI from Suhl, Germany.

India also bagged a bronze in the women's 25m pistol team event, taking their medal tally to 11, including five gold.

Suthar shines in County game

▸ India's newest spin bowling star Manav Suthar got his maiden five-wicket haul for Warwickshire in an English County Championship game against Somerset, reports PTI from Taunton.

Suthar, who was contracted to play two red ball games for the 'Bears', had a match-haul of seven wickets with 5 for 100 in 46.5 overs in Somerset's second innings.

In the first innings, Suthar took 2 for 50 in 18 overs after taking four wickets (two in each innings) against Yorkshire on his County debut.

KSCA's U-19 women's trials

▸ Karnataka State Cricket Association will hold open selection trials on June 26 to pick three to four teams to participate in the selection matches (Under 19 Women) in the second and third weeks of July. The trials will commence from 8.30 am at the KSCA B ground, reports DHNS.

Those interested, born on or after 01/09/2007, can report at the venue in cricketing attire with a photo copy of their date of birth certificate. Girls aged below 12 aren't eligible.

Arjan hockey from today

▸ The seventh edition of the Marshal of the Air Force Arjan Singh Memorial Hockey Tournament will be held from June 23 to July 3 at the Hockey Stadium, Air Force Station Jalahalli, reports DHNS.

Coles picked for India series

LONDON, AFP: England have named uncapped all-rounder James Coles in their squad for next month's T20 series against India.

The promising 22-year-old, who has been batting in the top three for his county Sussex and also bowls left-arm spin, recently featured for the England Lions against South Africa.

Coles also attracted the highest bid at the inaugural Hundred player auction when London Spirit paid £390,000 ($516,000) to sign him earlier this year.

Squad: Harry Brook (capt), Rehan Ahmed, Jofra Archer, Sonny Baker, Tom Banton, Jacob Bethell, Jos Buttler, James Coles, Jordan Cox, Sam Curran, Liam Dawson, Will Jacks, Saqib Mahmood, Adil Rashid, Phil Salt, Josh Tongue, Luke Wood.

◆ ON TV ◆

CRICKET

Women's WC: New Zealand vs Scotland **(3 pm)**, Australia vs Pakistan **(11 pm)**. **LIVE** on **Star Sports Network, JioHotstar**.

Maharaja T20: Gulbarga Mystics vs Shivamogga Yodhas **(2:30 pm)**, Mysore Warriors vs Bengaluru Blasters **(7 pm)**. **LIVE** on **Sony Sports Network, SonyLIV**.

FOOTBALL

FIFA World Cup: Jordan vs Algeria **(8:30 am)**, Portugal vs Uzbekistan **(10:30 pm)**, England vs Ghana **(1:30 am, Wednesday)**, Panama vs Croatia **(4:30 am)**.

HOCKEY

Men's Pro League: Pakistan vs India **(7 pm)**, Argentina vs Spain **(9 pm)**. **LIVE** on **Star Sports Select 2, JioHotstar**.

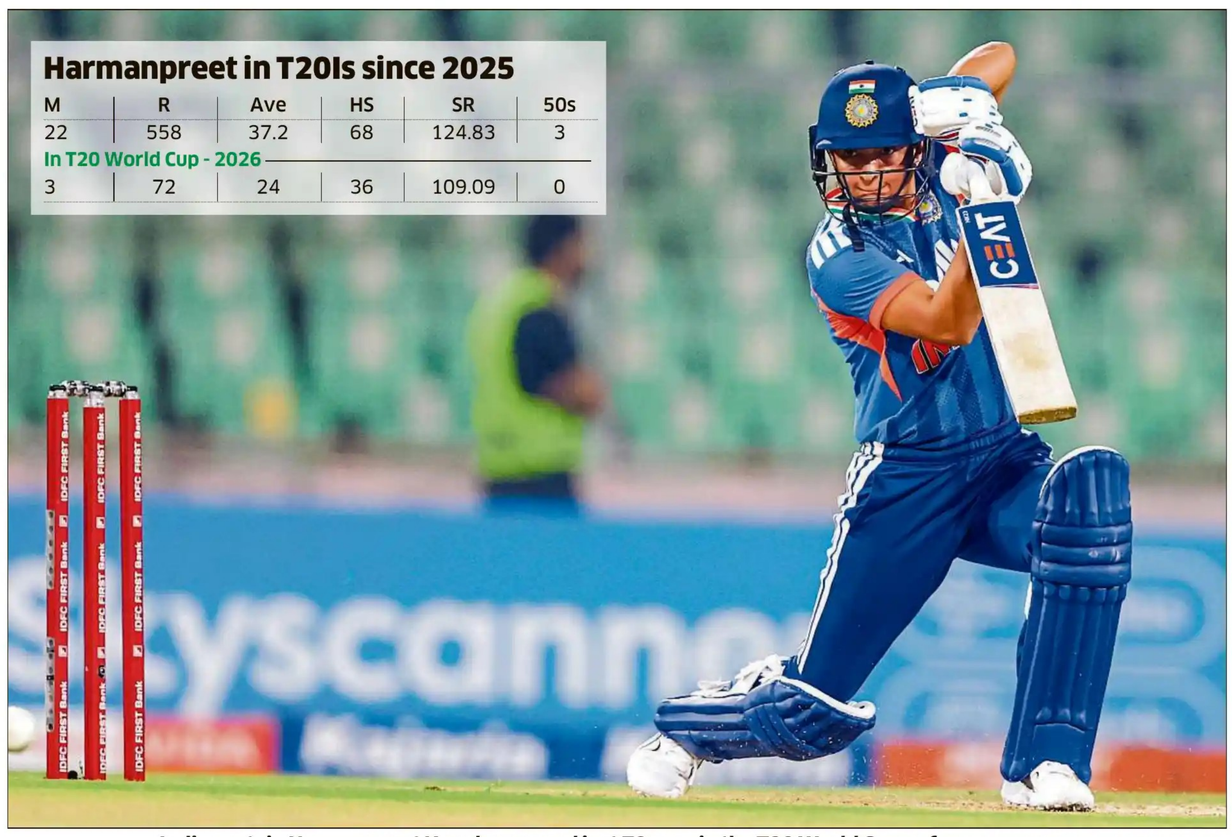
CRICKET T20 WORLD CUP

Captain Harmanpreet at the heart of India's middle-order woes

Right-hander's inconsistent run is a cause for concern

Harmanpreet in T20Is since 2025

M	R	Ave	HS	SR	50s
22	558	37.2	68	124.83	3
In T20 World Cup - 2026					
3	72	24	36	109.09	0



India captain Harmanpreet Kaur has scored just 72 runs in the T20 World Cup so far. PTI FILE PHOTO

VIGNESH BHARADWAJ
BENGALURU, DHNS

The last thing a team needs, especially in the middle of a T20 World Cup, is to worry about its leader. With Harmanpreet Kaur's bat going silent, and India now in a precarious do-or-die situation, it has put the ODI champions on a sticky wicket.

Harmanpreet, in her 10th T20 World Cup, has been struggling by her own lofty standards. The game against South Africa only made it obvious. On Sunday, the 37-year-old had the opportunity to regain lost rhythm, but a subpar showing (24 off 22) did little to dissuade those who felt she has been a shadow of her match-winning self.

Since this year's Women's Premier League, India have played 14 T20Is while Harmanpreet has been a part of 12. In these outings, she has managed to score only 363 runs, which includes two half-centuries, that have come in losing causes.

While the numbers have not been great, there lies another issue: Strike-rate. 109.9, 133.3, 102.8 -- these have been Harmanpreet's strike-rates in the ongoing T20 showpiece, a tournament where India have struggled in the middle-overs.

In the lead up to the tournament though, Harmanpreet's strike-rates in the series against South Africa and England respectively read: 146.52 & 133.63. And now, one may ask, what's caused the dip? Middle-order stability circles itself.

Sure, the Amol Muzumdar-led backroom is big on flexibility, but is it adding to India's woes and worries?

Harmanpreet batted at No. 4 against Pakistan, dropped to No. 6 against Netherlands, and played at five versus South Africa. India played Jemimah Rodrigues at No. 3 in the first two matches, but it was Yastika Bhatia against Proteas. Bharti Fulmali got a lone game at No. 5 against Pakistan.

India's middle-order consisting Harmanpreet, Jemimah, Yastika and Fulmali have only made 123 runs. During their first big challenge of the tournament, they only managed 63 runs from overs seven to 16.

"That is T20 cricket for you. We have been playing a fearless brand of wicket, which we have emphasised. I guess there will be days where we have those wickets falling in clusters. That's the way the nature of the game is. It is not much of a concern," said Muzumdar at the post-match press conference, backing his under-fire middle-order.

These issues, however, were also visible during the England T20Is, where the middle-order had failed to come to the party. While India did experiment in the England series, Harmanpreet admitted India are "pretty much clear" on their XI.

However, the World Cup has been contrary to what she said after the dress rehearsal against England. The 2020 finalists were not very convincing against Pakistan, but the two points diluted the problems. South Africa, meanwhile, were not kind enough as India were made to pay.

It is not all doom for India just yet, but it was enough to attract doubts. India play Bangladesh on June 25 and Australia on June 28, and they will have to win both games for a semifinal spot.

Harmanpreet is the only cricketer – both male or female – to play 200 T20Is, and her returns of 4147 runs puts her among the greats of the women's game. However, now it is up to her to find answers and lead from the front.

ICC unveils post-partum guidelines

DUBAI, PTI: To ensure a safe and sustainable return to cricket for women players post-pregnancy, the ICC on Monday announced guidelines to cover their early recovery after birth, structured training, and conditioning during a 16-week window before the comeback.

The 'Return to Play Post-Pregnancy Guidelines' for female cricketers, outline a six 'R's framework: Ready, Review, Restore, Recondition, Return and Refine.

"The approach covers early recovery after birth, medical and wellbeing reviews, gradual return to structured training, cricket-specific conditioning, return to play and ongoing monitoring once a player is back in the cricket environment," the ICC stated in a press release.

The document speaks about having a dedicated 'Case Manager' for the players returning to competitive cricket post pregnancy.

The Case Officer should be either a doctor or a physiotherapist.

Ahmedabad CWG to feature 17 sports

LONDON, PTI: Seventeen sports will feature at the 2030 Commonwealth Games in Ahmedabad, which is set to be staged at around 60 per cent lower cost than previous editions as part of the Commonwealth Sport's revamped hosting model, CEO Katie Sadleir said on Monday.

The 2026 Glasgow Commonwealth Games, scheduled to begin next month, will be a scaled-down edition featuring 10 able-bodied and six para sports in an effort to deliver a more cost-effective event.

However, the programme will expand significantly for the 2030 Games in Ahmedabad. "We will be going back up to a programme of 17 sports in Ahmedabad," Sadleir said in a virtual media briefing. "And we're currently working with the Indian Olympic Committee and the Government of India to work through that programme. So, it will go back up," she added.

Lakshya, Tanvi lead charge

Indians hope to make an impact at US Open Super 300 starting today

FULLERTON (USA), PTI

Lakshya Sen is seeded second at the US Open Super 300 badminton tournament. PTI FILE PHOTO

Seasoned campaigner Lakshya Sen and rising star Tanvi Sharma will lead India's challenge at the US Open Super 300 badminton tournament beginning here on Tuesday.

India will have a sizeable presence across the singles draws, including former world championships silver-medallist Kidambi Srikanth and a seven-strong women's team.

World No. 14 and Paris Olympics semifinalist Sen has been seeded second and drawn to face Belgium's Julien Carraggi in the opening round.

Placed in the opposite half of the draw is top seed and world No. 6 Chou Tien Chen of Chinese Taipei, who headlines the men's singles field.

Sen enjoys a 5-4 head-to-head record against Chou, having won their last two meetings, and could run into him if he goes all the way.

The Indian will be eager to bounce back after a disappointing first-round exit at the Indonesia Open earlier this month.

Former world championships silver-medallist Srikanth is the other seeded Indian in men's singles. Seeded fifth, he will open against Chinese Taipei's Liao Jhuo-Fu.

India also have Saneeth Dayanand in the main draw. The unseeded shuttler is set to begin his campaign against fourth seed Yudai Okimoto of Japan. S Sankar Muthusamy Subramanian has also made the main draw and will face a qualifier in the round of 32.

In women's singles, India have a strong presence with seven players in the main draw, led by fifth seed Tanvi Sharma and sixth seed Devika Sihag, ranked 32nd and 34th in the world respectively.

Three Indians are placed in the top half of the draw, while four, including Tanvi and Devika, feature in the bottom half.

The 17-year-old Tanvi, who reached the semifinals of the Orleans Masters in March and recently made the quarterfinals of the Australian Open Super 500, will open against Germany's Yvonne Li.

Devika, who has already won two titles this year -- the Thailand Masters Super 300 and the Azerbaijan International in back-to-back tournaments in January-February -- will begin against Ines Lucia Castillo Salazar of Peru.

BWF Worlds tickets priced from Rs 499 to Rs 5,500

Tickets priced between Rs 499 and Rs 5,500 will be available for fans across 6,000 seats when the BWF World Championships returns to India after 17 years here at the Indira Gandhi Indoor Stadium from August 17 to 23, reports PTI from New Delhi.

The Badminton Association of India (BAI) on Monday announced BookMyShow as the official ticketing partner for the prestigious event, with ticket sales opening on Monday.

Tickets price start at Rs 499 under an Early Bird offer, with six seating categories available in total. Fans can also avail a 15 per cent discount across the remaining five categories for a limited period, while premium seating has been priced at Rs 5,500 for a complete matchday experience. Ticket sales will be rolled out in phases, beginning with the opening four days of competition.

England docked 12 WTC points for slow over-rate

LONDON, AGENCIES

England's dreams of a maiden appearance in the World Test Championship (WTC) final suffered a blow after they were docked 12 points for their slow over-rate in the comprehensive defeat by New Zealand at The Oval on Sunday.

New Zealand levelled the three-test series with a 253-run victory against England, who were found 12 overs short of the target. The home side have been fined 50% of their match fees but losing 12 WTC points will sting more.

"England interim captain Joe Root admitted the offence and accepted the proposed sanction, eliminating the need for a formal hearing," the governing International Cricket Council said in a statement.

England remain seventh in the WTC standings but their points percentage dropped from 34.72 to 26.38. The top two teams in the standings, positions currently held by Australia and South Africa, will face off in the WTC final at Lord's next year.

Joe Root

Regular captain Ben Stokes will return to lead England in the third and final Test against New Zealand in Nottingham. All-rounder Stokes and fast bowler Gus Atkinson were suspended from the second Test after a curfew breach at a London nightclub.

Stokes cleared

Also, news emerged on Monday that Stokes and Atkinson will face no further action over the nightclub incident.

A parallel investigation by the England and Wales Cricket Board also absolved Stokes and Atkinson of any wrongdoing in an altercation involving Saracens rugby union player Totoa Auvaa that left a member of the England security bloodied.

Avani, Pranavi finish inside top-5 at Dutch Open

EEMNES (THE NETHERLANDS), PTI: Indian women golfers enjoyed one of their strongest weeks on the Ladies European Tour as Diksha Dagar, Avani Prashanth and Pranavi Urs finished inside the top-five at the Dutch Ladies Open here.

Diksha and Avani shared the third place at eight-under 208 at the par 72 course, while Pranavi finished tied fifth at seven-under.

It marked Diksha's fourth top-10 finish of the season, Avani's second consecutive top-five result and Pranavi's first top-five finish of the year. Avani came agonisingly close to forcing her way into the playoff. She stood at nine-under through 17 holes after Aunchsia Utama had set the clubhouse target.

However, a bogey on the closing hole dropped her back to eight-under, leaving her just one stroke short of the winning total. Aunchsia Utama was joined by Norway's Dorthea Forbrigd at nine-under. Utama beat Forbrigd with a birdie on the first playoff hole to capture her maiden Ladies European Tour title.

Avani Prashanth

Serena set for singles return at Wimbledon

LONDON, AP: It's been talked about ever since Serena Williams **(in pic)** announced nearly three weeks ago that she was returning to professional tennis after almost four years away from the sport.

Still, seeing the single-sentence announcement from The All England Club that the 23-time Grand Slam champion will play singles at Wimbledon was stunning nonetheless.

"Serena Williams (USA) receives the final ladies' singles wild card," read the key line in Sunday's announcement, which was issued eight days before the grass-court Grand Slam begins.

At 44, Williams will actually play both singles and doubles at Wimbledon after already accepting a wild card for the doubles competition.

"This is not a drill," Wimbledon said on its social media accounts on Sunday. Commented the WTA Tour, "Name a more iconic return... we'll wait."

Vondrousova banned

Former Wimbledon champion Marketa Vondrousova was handed a four-year suspension on Monday for refusing an anti-doping test. Vondrousova did not submit a sample when notified by a doping control officer during an out-of-competition test attempt at her home in December 2025.

Wyndham sings redemption song

SOUTHAMPTON, AFP

United States' Wyndham Clark raises the 126th US Open trophy after triumphing on Sunday. AFP

Wyndham Clark found his measure of redemption for smashing a locker at last year's US Open by winning this year's edition, but after merciless heckling he fears becoming the PGA Tour's villain.

Clark, the 2023 US Open champion, withstood taunts from New York fans to fire a three-over par 73 and grab a one-stroke victory over fellow American Sam Burns at Shinnecock Hills for a second major title.

"The first one was amazing and this one seems even better," Clark said. "Especially after such a sour taste last year in this championship, to have some redemption and win this again is almost surreal."

Clark has repeatedly apologised for damaging the locker at Oakmont after missing the cut last year.

"I sure hope it closes the door on it," Clark said. "I'll probably always get (hecklers), but I hope I don't become the heel of the PGA."

Clark recalled the aftermath the incident as his darkest time, never dreaming he would win the US Open a year after.

"After what happened at Oakmont was obviously the lowest point," Clark said. "It was a really tough two, three days for me. I was in a dark place, didn't really go outside much. I just felt a lot of my career, world ranking, reputation, everything just dwindling. That's a terrible feeling.

"In that moment I definitely didn't think I'd be here this year doing this."

While some joked about what Clark might do to his locker had he squandered a six-stroke lead in the last round, Clark said he has much better control of his anger.

"I'm not as angry as I used to be," Clark said. "I think I get frustrated. My anger has kind of gone away, which is a huge blessing.

"It's a combination of things off the course being great," he said. "My game feels like it's in a good position. I'm just happier where I'm at in life."

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